FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 DECEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian Offensive — Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced the defeat of a major Iranian offensive on the southern front 24-26 December, claiming that 50,380 Iranians were killed in battles that centered around Umm al-Rasas and other islands in the Shatt al-'Arab. The Iraqi command said its III and VII Corps destroyed 1,016 boats, 422 vehicles, and 8 tanks in a "great harvest" of enemy forces. The radio broadcast an Iraqi commander's statement to journalists that Iraqi troops were able to expel the Iranians from all the footholds they had gained.

However, an Iranian military spokesman cited by IRNA described the Iranian attack, codenamed Karbala IV, as a "limited" offensive aimed at destroying Iraqi troop and artillery positions, adding that Iranian troops returned to their bases after achieving their objectives. Iraq is trying to "make a mountain out of a molehill" in an attempt to boost its troop morale, he asserted. On Iraqi casualties, Tehran radio claimed that over 3,000 Iraqis were killed and some 6,500 were wounded in the Iranian offensive.

In other military developments, Iraqi communiques announced further Iraqi air strikes on the Bakhtaran area 24 December and on maritime targets in the Gulf 26 and 28 December. Iran's claim to have shot down several Iraqi aircraft over the southern battlefronts was denied by an Iraqi spokesman cited by WAKH.

Regarding Iranian manpower requirements, Tehran radio broadcast an appeal by the Revolution Guards Corps for more volunteers to register for military training.

Tehran Explosion — A number of people were injured when ammunition at a Tehran military garrison exploded accidentally 27 December, IRNA reported, quoting "informed sources." Iranian opposition sources in London claimed that over 500 Revolution Guards were killed in the blast, according to KUNA.

Iraqi Opposition — A 4-day conference on solidarity with the Iraqi people was concluded in Tehran 28 December, Tehran radio noted, adding that the meeting was attended by over 400 Iraqi militants. The conferees called for the formation of a military committee to coordinate their activities against the Iraqi regime, IRNA disclosed. Regarding the military situation in Iraqi Kurdistan, Tehran radio claimed that an Iraqi battalion surrendered 28 December to forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Attempted Hijack, Crash of Iraqi Airliner

An Iraqi source cited by WAKH stated that Iranian agents of Lebanese nationality were responsible for the 25 December attempt to hijack an Iraqi airliner, which crashed during a forced landing in Saudi Arabia. An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman denied any Iranian involvement in the incident, IRNA noted. Responsibility for the hijacking was claimed by various groups in Beirut including the "Revolutionary Action Organization," which warned of further attacks unless Iraq releases three of its members, according to Beirut radio.

The Saudi authorities had announced the crash at 'Ar'ar Airport in a communique broadcast by Riyadh radio, noting that 62 people were killed, 32 were injured, and 12 escaped unhurt. The survivors included former Jordanian Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar, who subsequently related to Amman's *Al-Dustur* how the forced landing occurred after hijackers exploded a grenade and exchanged fire with Iraqi guards on the aircraft. AFP noted reports that two Lebanese hijackers survived but were seriously injured.

In the wake of the incident, President Saddam Husayn held a 2-hour meeting with King Fahd during a visit to Saudi Arabia for the minor pilgrimage, Voice of the Masses reported. At the conclusion of his visit the Iraqi leader sent a cable to Fahd affirming that bilateral relations will be strengthened and expressing gratitude for Saudi hospitality, the radio noted.

Lebanon

French Hostage's Release — Following Aurel Cornea's release 24 December, Paris radio broadcast French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's remarks thanking Palestinian officials as well as the Algerian, Syrian, and Lebanese authorities for assisting the release of the French hostage. The "Organization of Revolutionary Justice" had released Cornea as a gesture in response to "changes" in France's policy, according to AFP.

Security — Beirut radio and other local stations reported sporadic Amal-Palestinian clashes over the Christmas period. An Amal Movement statement carried by Beirut radio blamed the DFLP for an attack on Amal personnel in the Al-Biqa' Valley 25 December, noting that six Amal men were killed or wounded when their bus was ambushed. A Libyan diplomat was assassinated in Al-Biqa' the same day, according to Tripoli radio, which broadcast a cable from the DFLP accusing Amal of the killing.

In northern Lebanon, Syrian forces continued to hunt their opponents over Christmas, Beirut radio reported, adding that more than 30 people were killed in clashes east of Tripoli. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the Syrians have arrested a number of shaykhs, and Voice of Lebanon radio noted that they are trying to track down Hashim Minqarah, a leader of the Islamic Unification Movement (IUM). In a related development in the Syrian capital, Damascus radio reported that IUM leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban discussed the Tripoli situation with President Hafiz al-Asad 28 December, noting that Sha'ban condemned the "failed attempt by a certain group" to undermine

Tripoli's security and that he emphasized Syria's "principal role" in maintaining security in the city.

In southern Lebanon, the IDF killed over 10 "terrorists" in a 24 December raid on the village of Maydun, 3 km north of Israel's security zone, Jerusalem radio reported. The attack was directed against members of Hizballah and left-wing Shi'ite organizations.

Israel

Shamir Cleared — The inquiry commission into the killing of bus hijackers in 1984 has concluded that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not give any directive to kill the terrorists and that he did not support the falsification of evidence after the event, Jerusalem television reported. The commission rejected former Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom's claims about Shamir's role, the television said, and Shamir has asked the attorney general to publish the results of the inquiry.

Vanunu Trial — Reporting on the 28 December opening session of Mordekhay Vanunu's trial, Jerusalem radio noted that he pleaded not guilty to charges of espionage and collaborating with the enemy.

Palestinians — *Al-Sha'b* editor Akram Haniyah was deported from Israel 28 December, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that Haniyah was charged with involvement in hostile activities against Israel on behalf of Fatah. Two youths were injured in a clash with IDF soldiers in Ramallah the same day, the radio disclosed.

Egypt

Mubarak Visit to Jordan — During a working visit to Jordan 28 December, President Husni Mubarak and Jordanian King Husayn held talks on the situation in the Arab and Islamic world in preparation for the Islamic summit in Kuwait, an Egyptian official told MENA, adding that the atmosphere was "constructive and amicable."

Relations With Syria — A "ranking Syrian envoy" recently made a secret visit to Cairo during which the two countries agreed to halt their slanderous media exchanges, according to a 26 December *Al-Qabas* report cited by KUNA.

Protests in Asyut — AFP cited Egyptian press reports that 124 members of "extremist religious organizations" were arrested in Asyut 26 December as antiriot police used teargas to disperse fundamentalist demonstrators who disrupted Friday prayers.

Libya

Chadian Conflict — Libyan troops captured Zoauar oasis from Chadian forces 28-29 December, according to "reliable" sources cited by AFP. Earlier, Chadian sources in Paris stated that Chadian forces repulsed Libyan attacks over Christmas, killing 500 Libyans and downing 3 planes, the agency reported. AFP also noted that Chadian Government troops had arrived from the south to reinforce Goukouni Oueddei supporters. In Libya, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported that the Chadian "masses" sent Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a message hailing GUNT's "splendid victory" over the "remnants of mutineer Habre." The Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the French ambassador to protest France's "policy of hostile escalation" in Chad and to warn of its potentially serious consequences, Tripoli radio disclosed 24 December.

PLO Office — The PLO reopened its office in Tripoli, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio announced 25 December.

Internal Issues — In 27 December remarks to General People's Congress officials cited by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland, Al-Qadhdhafi declared that those who refuse to exercise the people's power by not attending the basic people's congress sessions will lose their civil rights. He also stressed the importance of the people's defense committees in the consolidation of the people's authority.

Sudan

Sudan Air resumed its Khartoum-Juba passenger flights 27 December, SUNA reported, adding that cargo flights began last week. The flights had been suspended after the SPLA downed a civilian plane 16 August.

Iran-Pakistan

Tehran radio reported that an Iranian naval officer was kidnapped and murdered in Karachi 25 December, asserting that "agents of global arrogance" were responsible.

Iranian and Pakistani officials began discussions the same day in Tehran on a possible exchange of Iranian oil for Pakistani goods, the radio noted.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 249 *29 December 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Najibullah Receives Province Representatives ..... C 1
Rebel Leader Rabbani Visits Paris, Comments *[Paris LE MONDE 16 Dec]* ..... C 1
Ministry Cites Trade With USSR at $960 Million ..... C 2
Armed Forces Claim Success in Nangarhar Province ..... C 2
Mujahidin Claim 35 Soviet-Kabul Soldiers Killed *[Karachi]* ..... C 2
41 Reportedly Killed in Qandahar *[Karachi]* ..... C 2
Rebels Say Many Troops Killed in New Offensive *[AFP]* ..... C 2

BANGLADESH

Tribal Violence in Chittagong Hill Tracts *[AFP]* ..... D 1
Committee to Probe Killings ..... D 1
Explosion Reported in Political Leader's Home *[AFP]* ..... D 1

INDIA

Delhi on Conclusion of Talks With Pakistan ..... E 1
Moscow Talks Held on Implementing Agreements ..... E 1
Tiwari Reiterates Desire for Nuclear Test Ban ..... E 1
Security To Be Increased on Bangladesh Border ..... E 1
Home Minister Concerned Over Tripura Violence ..... E 1
Tripura 'Extremists' Kill 4 ..... E 1
Strike 'Paralyzes' Tripura Life ..... E 1
Curfew Imposed After Tribal Killing ..... E 1
More Killed; Army To Stage March ..... E 2
South Goa Returning to Normal; 200 Arrested ..... E 2
Punjab To Remain Restricted Area for Foreigners ..... E 2
'Terrorist' Activities Reported in Punjab ..... E 2
'Terrorist' Incidents in Faridkot ..... E 2
4 Killed in Kapurthala ..... E 2
'Local' Congress-I Leader Killed ..... E 2
Student Factions Call Strike ..... E 2
125 Arrested as Strike Approaches *[AFP]* ..... E 3
Strike Evokes 'Mixed Response' ..... E 3
Police Seize Arms, Equipment in Tamil Nadu ..... E 3
Colombo Cites Paper on Details *[THE STATESMAN]* ..... E 3
'Terrorists' Crossing into Pakistan Arrested ..... E 4
Newspaper Article Prompts Strike in Kashmir ..... E 4

PAKISTAN

'Official-Level' Talks With India Begin *[Delhi]* ..... F 1
India's Venkateswarn, Noorani Meet ..... F 1
India Propaganda Matter of Concern ..... F 1
AFP Reports Further ..... F 1
India's Venkateswaran, Sattar Talk *[Delhi]* ..... F 1
India's Venkateswaran, Junejo Meet ..... F 2
Joint News Conference Held ..... F 2
Further on News Conference ..... F 2
Ziaul Haq Receives Message ..... F 2

Economic Commission Meeting With PRC Continues ..... F 3
PRC Minister, Junejo Meet ..... F 3
Cooperation Agreement Signed ..... F 3
PRC Official, Finance Minister Meet ..... F 3
PRC Boundary Committee Delegation Arrives ..... F 3
Documents Signed ..... F 3
Yaqub Khan To Discuss Afghanistan in Beijing ..... F 3
Delhi Reports Iranian Naval Officer Killed ..... F 4
Situation in Karachi Reportedly 'Normal' ..... F 4
Curfews To Be Relaxed 29 Dec ..... F 4
Bhutto Reportedly Unable to Visit France *[Delhi]* ..... F 4

IRAN

Involvement in Iraqi Jet Hijacking Denied ..... I 1
Khamene'i Gives Tehran Friday Prayer Sermon ..... I 1
SAIRI Chairman on Islamic Resurgence ..... I 2
Iraqi Solidarity Conference Opens in Tehran ..... I 2
Khamene'i Addresses Conference ..... I 2
SAIRI Chairman's Address ..... I 3
Velayati Addresses Banquet ..... I 3
Musavi on Saddam's 'Downfall' ..... I 4
SAIRI Spokesman Speaks ..... I 4
Musavi-Ardabili Address ..... I 5
Hezbollah, Libyan Officials Speak ..... I 5
Iraqi Kurdish Officials Interviewed ..... I 6
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks ..... I 6
Resolution Issued ..... I 6
Ammunition 'Accidentally' Explodes at Garrison ..... I 8
Opposition Cited on Over 500 Killed *[KUNA]* ..... I 8
Montazeri Cables Bakhtaran Official on Bombing ..... I 8
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 8
Bakhtaran Residential Areas Hit Again ..... I 8
Retaliatory Shelling Begun ..... I 8
Iraqi Military, Economic Sites Hit ..... I 8
Iraqi Communications Center Shelled ..... I 8
'Karbala IV' Offensive Launched ..... I 9
'Heavy Losses' Inflicted on Iraqis ..... I 9
'Sensitive Enemy Centers' Captured ..... I 9
Communique Issued on Offensive ..... I 9
Iraqi Naval Base, Oil Complex Hit ..... I 9
Offensive 'Militarily Important' ..... I 10
2 Iraqi Warplanes Downed in South ..... I 10
Third Iraqi Warplane Downed ..... I 10
Iraqi Casualities Exceed 1,500 ..... I 10
Fatalities Raised to 3,000 ..... I 10
Air Cover Provided During Offensive ..... I 10
Objectives of 'Limited Offensive' ..... I 11
Iraqis Respond With Chemical Weapons ..... I 11
Captured Iraqi Troops on Offensive ..... I 11
Karbala IV Commander on Operations ..... I 11
Offensive Termed 'New Dimension' ..... I 12
Iraqi Supply Columns Halted ..... I 12
Communique No 2,695 ..... I 13
Communique No 2,696 ..... I 13
Communique No 2,697 ..... I 13
Communique No 2,698 ..... I 14

Najibullah Receives Province Representatives
LD250618 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 24, BAKHTAR — Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, received the elders and representatives of the Provinces of Nangarhar, Konar, Laghman, Paktia, Paktika and the grand district of Khowst.

Addressing the audience, Najib talked about the better results of war, bloodshed and fratricide which have been imposed on the people by the reactionary and imperialist countries.

Najib called the adoption of the policy of national reconciliation a logical step in the evolutionary process of the April Revolution and is indicative of the strength of the People's Democratic Party and the state of the DRA.

Najib expressed the all-sided preparation of the party and state leadership for ensuring national reconciliation. It is necessary, he stressed, that all the tribes and nationalities should contribute for the cause of bringing about national reconciliation and to solve all the problems and differences through jirgahs (assemblies). General secretary of the PDPA CC characterised national reconciliation as a principled policy of the party and state and the patriotic duty of every Afghan for achieving prosperity and happiness to the people.

The representatives of these provinces expressed their firm support for the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation aimed at ending bloodshed and fratricide.

Rebel Leader Rabbani Visits Paris, Comments
PM231236 Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Dec 86 p 4

[Francis Deron report: "An 'Accidental' Bombing Raid on Qandahar Apparently Killed Several Dozen People"]

[Text] Two Soviet fighter planes bombed the city of Qandahar in southern Afghanistan on Monday 8 December killing several dozen people, according to reports issued on Saturday 13 December by Afghan refugees in Pakistan who state that after the raid the Kabul authorities explained to the population that it was an accident.

According to the refugees, the two planes dropped between four and six bombs on the western part of the new suburb of Qandahar, an area in which there is a bus station, a hospital, a school, and several administrative buildings. The raid took place after a rebel ambush of a Soviet armored column in Mahalajat, a small town 45km from Qandahar. Following the raid, jeeps belonging to the pro-Soviet Afghan forces drove around the city with bullhorns telling the population that it was a "mistake" and expressing the authorities' "regrets."

One of the main Afghan rebel leaders said, on a brief visit to Paris on Saturday, that this raid demonstrated the insincerity of the Soviet Union's recent conciliatory statements about progress toward a political settlement of the conflict.

According to Professor Rabbani, leader of the Jami'at-e Eslami movement, one of the seven components of the Islamic Alliance of Mujahidin, the optimism recently expressed by Mr Gorbachev, particularly during the visit to Moscow last week by Mr Najibullah, head of the Kabul regime, are all diplomatic maneuvers aimed at influencing international meetings like the next Islamic summit which will be held in Kuwait in January.

"There is no doubt that the new Soviet leadership is trying to show public opinion that it is capable of adopting measures" aimed at solving the conflict "by arguing that the war (in Afghanistan — *Le Monde* editor's note) is the work of the old generation whereas the new generation wants to build peace," Professor Rabbani told us. "But the repeated statements to this effect recently were not followed by practical action to solve the conflict and we therefore remain extremely vigilant."

Mr Rabbani has just been sent by the Islamic Alliance's seven movements on a tour of Africa — the first by an Afghan rebel leader — to establish direct contact between the mujahidin and Third World heads of state (Senegal, Gabon, Niger) because the Third World is the "Achilles heel" of Soviet diplomacy. He went to Brussels this Monday 15 December to continue his overtures to the EEC. This tour reflects an increased effort by the resistance fighters in the diplomatic sphere which is obviously aimed at countering the effects of Moscow's avowed flexibility.

Mr Najibullah has constantly supported this flexible attitude recently and has called, as he has just done again in Moscow, for the formation of a government of "national unity" including forces "which are temporarily situated outside the country's borders," in other words the more moderate rebel groups. "We do not think that Mr Najibullah, the leader of a regime regarded by our people as a gang of murderers, has the right to dictate the Afghans' future," Mr Rabbani replied curtly, stressing the divisions in the communist party in Kabul, as demonstrated by the firing of Babrak Karmal and several of his political friends.

In view of the approach of the 7th anniversary of the Soviet invasion on 27 December, the rebel leader said that the rebels have shown a military success rate of "more than 50 percent" over the past year, due in particular to a "better knowledge of enemy strategy." This does not prevent the current diplomatic offensive from reflecting a degree of anxiety in the resistance particularly as a result of President Reagan's problems in the wake of the "Irangate" affair.

Questioned on the risks of a reduction in U.S. aid, Professor Rabbani tried to make himself clear, while speaking cryptically: "The defeat of the Afghan resistance would cause a major international imbalance and would be a considerable step forward for the Soviet Union. I hope that temporary problems will not affect the long-term interests of many Western and Third World countries. These interests cannot be dependent on one individual." This was one way of reminding the U.S. Congress of its recent enthusiasm for the cause of the Afghan "freedom fighters."

Ministry Cites Trade With USSR at $960 Million

LD270255 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 25, BAKHTAR — The volume of the exchange of goods between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union through the Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Soviet Union amounted to 960 million dollars in 1986. This figure shows an increase of 6.7 percent as compared to the year 1985.

This was released in a press conference which was held here today for assessing the results, development, and expansion of the commercial and economic cooperation of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan in 1986.

Out of the 960 million dollars of the exchange of goods, the export of the Soviet Union amounted to 600 million dollars and the import of the Afghan goods amounts to 360 million dollars. Following the five-year agreement on the exchange of goods between the two countries, the trade has been developing between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan since 1976.

The year 1986 is the first year for the implementation of the long-term new agreement on the exchange of goods for the years 1986 to 1990. According to this agreement, the volume of the exchange of goods is estimated to go up to five billion dollars whereas the volume of the exchange of goods between the two countries amounted to 4.3 billion dollars during the years 1981 to 1985.

The prospects on concluding a commercial trade protocol is fruitful in 1987 and favourable conditions will be created for the consolidation and expansion of the Afghan-Soviet commercial cooperation.

Armed Forces Claim Success in Nangarhar Province

LD281841 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Our country's heroic Armed Forces have successfully crushed a group of counterrevolutionaries based in the subdistricts of Pashshad and Agam, Nangarhar Province, which was disrupting the inhabitants' peaceful life there, and have destroyed their hideouts.

A BIA correspondent reports that in the operations that were held with the full cooperation of the people of that region some of those elements were crushed and the following was captured: 1,200 surface-to-surface rockets, 1,000 antivehicle mines, 3 mortars, 9 DShK's with 57 boxes of shells, 4 ZK-1, 2 recoilless guns, one 23-mm gun, one system for launching surface-to-surface rockets, two systems for the surface-to-air rockets [as heard], 1,400 shells for rocket launchers, 500 boxes of hand grenades, 3 heavy machine guns, 1,700 antipersonnel mines, several assorted weapons, 158,000 shells, 12 clothing, foodstuff and ammunition depots and a generator.

In addition, 2 DShK's, 1 mortar, 1 system for launching surface-to-surface rockets, 522 mortar shells, 198 antivehicles mines, 287 rocket launcher shells, 300 kg of explosives and 80 boxes of DShK shells were destroyed.

Mujahidin Claim 35 Soviet-Kabul Soldiers Killed

BK230926 Karachi Domestic Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have regained control of three Soviet-Najib army posts near Khowst in Paktia Province. Thirty-five Soviet-Najib soldiers, including ten officers, were killed after a weeklong fighting. Fighting is also reported to be going on around another Soviet-Najib army camp near Khowst where mujahidin claimed to have destroyed a number of armored vehicles.

41 Reportedly Killed in Qandahar

BK260611 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, 41 Soviet-Najib regime officers were reportedly killed in a recent attack by mujahidin on Qandahar Airport.

Rebels Say Many Troops Killed in New Offensive

BK281320 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 28 (AFP) — Soviet and Afghan troops pressed an attack Sunday against a rebel base south of Jallalabad, in southeastern Afghanistan, the pro-rebel *Afghan Islamic Press Agency* (AIP) reported here. The agency quoted a leader of the rebel party running the base, Yunis Khales, as saying that the Soviet-Afghan troops had started moving towards the base, known as Tora Bora, a week ago with 500 vehicles. AIP also quoted rebels as saying that they had killed numerous troops and destroyed an unspecified number of vehicles during several days of battles.

The news agency said the rebels had attacked the Jallalabad airport overnight Tuesday, destroying three airplanes on the ground. Reliable sources said the Tora Bora base was important because new weapons were stocked in it. Consequently, the rebels were said to have been expecting the Soviet-Afghan attack.

Tribal Violence in Chittagong Hill Tracts

BK230534 Hong Kong AFP in English 0455 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Dec 23 (AFP) — At least 60 people were killed in clashes between tribal people and government troops in Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts last week, forcing a new exodus of tribals to India, the *Press Trust of India* /PTI) and news reports said Tuesday.

Soldiers and heavily-armed Moslem settlers gunned down some 50 Chakma tribals in Merung, Bhaiboncherra, and Betcherri areas and kidnapped several young women, the news agency quoted "border intelligence sources" as saying.

In an apparently unrelated incident, 10 soldiers died and many others were wounded when 30 Shanti Bahini tribal guerrillas ambushed an army camp at Dighinala last Wednesday, PTI said. The four army platoons fought back for nearly an hour, but the guerrillas retreated to their forest cover at Miani, the reports said.

Nearly 30,000 tribals, natives of the subcontinent, have left their homes for shelter in make-shift refugee camps in India's border state of Tripura, according to Indian reports. The tribals alledge that they have been subjected to renewed violence by Bangladesh Government troops since May this year. The reports said some 100 tribals had entered India following the latest violence. Tripura's state assembly was told Monday that another 60,000 had been refused entry since Bangladesh emerged independent in 1971 until October last. [passage omitted]

Committee to Probe Killings

BK250232 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0220 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The government has set up a high-power committee to probe into the killing by outlawed Shanti Bahini at Ramgarh in Khagrachari on Tuesday [23 December] night. The committee will submit its report within 15 days. Nineteen persons including women and children were killed and 39 others wounded when the so-called Shanti Bahini opened fire on a cinema hall and set fire at the adjacent bazaar.

Explosion Reported in Political Leader's Home

BK230452 Hong Kong AFP in English 0448 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 23 (AFP) — Four people were killed and several others injured when a bomb exploded in the home of a local political leader near here, newspapers reported Tuesday. The *New Nation* reported that the explosion occurred Monday in a kitchen where campaigners of Afzal Hossain Kaiser were sleeping. Police could not say immediately if the bomb was in the kitchen or was thrown into the room, the reports said.

Mr Kaiser, unhurt in the blast, is campaigning under the ruling Jatiya Party of President H.M. Ershad in a by-election scheduled for this week for the chairmanship of a sub-district in the Gazipur area.

Delhi on Conclusion of Talks With Pakistan

BK281607 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The 2-day Indo-Pakistan official-level talks concluded in Islamabad today after devising a method to break the impasse in trade. According to PTI, the two countries agreed to prepare a fresh list of items to be traded in the private sector. The talks reportedly failed to make any significant headway on reconciling Islamabad's offer of a nonaggression pact and India's offer of a treaty of peace and friendship. The two foreign secretaries focused on the finalization of a legal document formalizing the understanding reached between President Ziaul Haq and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in December last year on renouncing attacks on each other's nuclear installations.

The two sides agreed to establish telephone links to facilitate direct dialing between their capitals by April. Both the countries decided to continue discussions at the official level in March. The Indian delegation was led by Mr Venkateswaran.

Moscow Talks Held on Implementing Agreements

BK280916 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] India and the Soviet Union reviewed in Moscow yesterday the implementation of agreements reached during Mr Gorbachev's visit to New Delhi last month. The Indian ambassador, Mr T.N. Kaul, had a 90-minute meeting with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze. Later, Mr Kaul told newsmen that the focus of the discussion was on increasing trade and economic cooperation. Mr Shevardnadze praised India's policy of peace.

Tiwari Reiterates Desire for Nuclear Test Ban

BK260629 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari, has reiterated India's opposition to militarization of space and its desire for a total nuclear test ban. He was talking to newsmen in Rangoon at the conclusion of his visit to Burma. He stressed that India's position is clearly reflected in the Delhi Declaration signed recently by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. India and Burma signed a maritime boundary demarcation agreement during Mr Tiwari's visit.

Security To Be Increased on Bangladesh Border

BK241357 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] A consensus has been reached between Border Security Force [BSF] and Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] about stepping up vigil on the India-Bangaldesh border at their talks in Calcutta. According to a BSF spokesman, both sides have agreed for strict vigil on the border to curb illegal entry of Bangladesh nationals and smuggling.

Home Minister Concerned Over Tripura Violence

BK241656 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpt] The center has conveyed its deep concern over the law and order situation in Tripura. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, talked to the chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, over [the] telephone and urged him to take immedate steps to curb violence and protect the life and property of the people. Drawing his attention to the increased TNV [Tripura National Volunteer] violence, Mr Buta Singh assured all possible help to the state government in maintaining law and order.

A 24-hour bundh [strike] is being observed from this morning in the state. The Congress-I, which gave the call for the bundh to protest against Monday's extremist killings, claimed it to be a success. The chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, contended that it was a failure. According to him, a CPI-M sponsored 12-hour bundh in south Tripura District today was a success.

Tripura 'Extremists' Kill 4

BK250751 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] In Tripura, armed TNV extremists killed four persons and injured four others at (Chatakcheri) in south Agartala last night. This comes at 48 hours after the extremist attack at Malbasa in which 10 persons were killed. The state chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, told our correspondent in Agartala today that he will be leaving for Delhi on the 4th of next month to discuss the activities of TNV extremists with central leaders.

Strike 'Paralyzes' Tripura Life

BK250857 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] In north Tripura life was paralyzed today in Kailashahar where a 36-hour bundh [strike] is being observed in protest against the Malbasa killings. The leader of the Congress-I and member of the Tripura Legislative Assembly, Maharani Brigu Devi, has in a telegram requested the center to extend the Armed Forces Special Powers Act to Tripura to defuse the explosive situation. In a statement issued in Agartala today, she demanded the resignation of the Left Front government for its failure to maintain law and order in the state.

Curfew Imposed After Tribal Killing

BK260311 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] In Tripura, a curfew was imposed in Amarpur area of the state's south district following the murder of a tribal yesterday evening. He is reported to have been killed by some antisocial elements at (Soilakh), about 3 km from the subdivisional town. The chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, said additional reinforcements have been rushed to the area.

More Killed; Army To Stage March

BK260739 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Tripura National Volunteers extremists killed eight more persons at Kachaura under Kamalpur police station in north Tripura District last night. This is the third incident of the kind in the state during [the] past 72 hours. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed yesterday in (Mailak) area in south Tripura following the killing of a person. The Army has been asked to stage a flag march in that area today.

South Goa Returning to Normal; 200 Arrested

BK250305 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Normalcy is fast returning in South Goa. No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the Union Territory. This inspector general of police has said that the situation is under control. More than 200 antisocial elements have been rounded up. Normal traffic other than train movement has been restored. [passage omitted]

Punjab To Remain Restricted Area for Foreigners

BK261559 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Punjab will continue to remain restricted area to foreigners. The Foreigners Restricted Areas Order has been extended till the 2d of July next year. No foreign passport holder can enter the state for any purpose without obtaining a special permission. An official press release issued in New Delhi says foreigners can travel through the state by rail to Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh provided they do not disembark at any place in Punjab.

'Terrorist' Activities Reported in Punjab

BK241615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons, including a woman, were killed and one seriously injured in three separate incidents of terrorist activity today. A shopkeeper was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen in village (Tin), near Dhariwal this morning in Gurdaspur District.

Two suspected terrorists shot dead a woman in Jullundur. The victim has been identified as an Akali Dal worker, Mrs Harbachan Kaur Khalsa.

In Bhatinda District, three suspected terrorists fired and seriously injured a person in a village under the Dayalpur police station.

'Terrorist' Incidents in Faridkot

BK251615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab rail traffic, which was suspended this morning on the Jullundur-Amritsar section, was restored this afternoon. The suspension followed recovery of some bomb-like devices on the track near the Amritsar railway station. The traffic was restored after the devices were removed by the police and a thorough inspection of the track.

Three persons were killed in two separate incidents of terrorist activities in Faridkot District today. Two scooter-borne terrorists shot dead two persons at (Bholiakhod) village in Moga subdivision this evening. The assailants while escaping took away the scooter of the deceased. Paramilitary forces cordoned off the whole area and launched combing operations.

In the second incident, two suspected terrorists shot dead one forest guard at village (Sadda Singawala) in Moga subdivision.

4 Killed in Kapurthala

BK270854 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, four members of a family were shot dead and one seriously injured by three suspected terrorists in a village near Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala District last night. The killed included a woman. The victims were sleeping in their house when they were attacked.

'Local' Congress-I Leader Killed

BK271245 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, many parts of Amritsar City were placed under indefinite curfew in view of some tension and violent incidents following the killing of a local Congress-I leader. The leader, Mr Suresh Kumar, was killed and two persons including a woman were seriously injured when some suspected terrorists fired at them in Gopalgarh area. Immediately after the killing, a crowd gathered at the site and indulged in brickbatting in which some policemen, including the superintendent of police, were injured. In another incident in Hoshiarpur District, a doctor was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen near Gadhwala last night. The victim was returning home from his clinic on a scooter when he was attacked.

Student Factions Call Strike

BK281618 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The Punjab government has made adequate arrangements in view of a 2-day bundh [strike] called by the two factions of the All India Sikh Students Federation for tomorrow and the day after. The Punjab minister of state for home, Captain Kamaljit Singh, told the All India Radio [AIR] Chandigarh correspodent that all the district authorities have been directed to maintain

law and order at all costs. He said nobody will be allowed to disrupt normal life in the state.

In view of the bundh call, the Himachal Pradesh Roadways Transport Corporation has decided to suspend its bus services in Punjab territories from midnight tonight as a precautionary measure. A spokesman of the roadways told the AIR Simla correspondent that some buses are being diverted to avoid Punjab territory.

125 Arrested as Strike Approaches

BK281638 Hong Kong AFP in English 1629 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Chandigarh, India, Dec 28 (AFP) — Police arrested about 125 people in Punjab Sunday as the state administration braced itself for a 48-hour general strike beginning early Monday, officials here said. A government spokesman told reporters here that most trains had been cancelled, schools and colleges ordered closed, and para-military forces deployed in strength at sensitive areas in the state.

The sponsors have announced plans to block rail and road traffic during the strike, which is to protest against the confirmation of death sentences handed down to the three Sikhs found guilty of assassinating Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984. The strikers are also demanding the release of Sikhs held in Indian jails and rehabilitation of those who deserted the Army after the 1984 Army assault on the Golden Temple, holiest of Sikh shrines.

Official sources said of the approximately 125 arrests, 50 of them were in Jullundur, an industrial town. They indicated the number could go higher by the time the strike begins at 1830 GMT Sunday. But no violence was reported. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, security forces caught 15 people after a pro-militant activist fired on a para-military Central Reserve Police (CRP) picket Sikh militant in Brahmapur village in Amritsar District Saturday night. [sentence as received] Police said the shots were fired from inside a nearby shrine, the *Press Trust of India* reported. No casualties were reported.

Amitsar city was reported peaceful Sunday after violence triggered by the killing of a local leader of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling Congress Party by suspected militants overnight. The curfew clamped on the Sikh holy city following the violence was relaxed for two hours earlier in the day, without any major incident, PTI said.

Strike Evokes 'Mixed Response'

BK290944 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, the 2-day bundh [strike] call has evoked mixed response on the first day today. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh while shops at most of the places are closed, government offices, banks, business establishments, and other essential services are functioning as normal. Buses and train services on the branch lines have been suspended. These services have, however, been maintained on the main routes under strict security arrangements. Police and paramilitary forces are keeping a strict vigil over the situation. No major untoward incident has been reported from anywhere.

A report from Amritsar says that almost all shops and other establishments in the interior areas of the city are closed, but some shops outside the walled city and outer localities are open.

In Jullundur, a total bundh is being observed. There has been no untoward incident so far.

Police Seize Arms, Equipment in Tamil Nadu

BK271622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, police seized arms and ammunition including sophisticated communications equipment from a van on the Madras-Tiruchirappalli Road, about 70 kilometers from Tiruchirappalli, yesterday. Three Sri Lankan militants traveling in the van were arrested. The director general of police told our Madras correspondent today that the militants belong to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization [TELO].

Meanwhile, 50 persons belonging to TELO including its secretary general, Mr Selvam, started an indefinite fast in Madras today demanding the release of the arrested men and return of arms and communication equipment.

Colombo Cites Paper on Details

BK271136 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The Indian police have seized more than 3,000 landmines and an unspecified number of firearms from three Sri Lankan Tamil terrorists in southern India. The Indian newspaper, *The Statesman*, reported today that the three men from the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, TELO, also had wireless communication equipment and ammunition when they were arrested in the Tiruchirappalli District of Tamil Nadu yesterday. The seizure followed with [as heard] detention of more than 100 TELO men this week in several raids on the group's hideouts in Tamil Nadu. TELO Secretary General S. Selvam, has accused the Indian police of singling out his group for what he said was humiliating treatment. He has threatened to go on an indefinite fast if the harassment does not stop immediately. The TELO, which is virtually decimated in an internecine battle with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in April this year, is reported to have closed ties with the Dravida Munnetra Kazagham, DMK, Tamil Nadu's main opposition group.

According to an Indian report received by LANKA PUWATH, 40 members of the TELO were detained by the Madras police for more than 48 hours and interrogated in connection with the recent bomb blast in Tamil Nadu. Inspector general of police, C.D. Paul, told UNI *[United News of India]* new agency the TELO members had subsequently been released and the rest would be set free after questioning.

'Terrorists' Crossing into Pakistan Arrested

BK280918 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The Border Security Force [BSF] has arrested two suspected terrorists when they were trying to cross over to Pakistan from Samba area of Jammu District. A BSF spokesman told PTI that some important documents and weapons were seized from them.

Newspaper Article Prompts Strike in Kashmir

BK261607 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, partial hartal [strike] was observed today in Srinagar City following an article published in a local daily which reportedly hurt the religious sentiments of a community. There were some incidents of stone throwing in which two vehicles were damaged. According to an official spokesman, 11 persons have been arrested in this connection. The editor of the daily has also been arrested. The office of the newspaper and its press have been sealed.

'Official-Level' Talks With India Begin

BK270915 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Official-level talks between India and Pakistan began in Islamabad today. The foreign secretary, Mr A.P. Venkateswaran, is leading the 5-member Indian delegation, while his counterpart, Mr Abdus Sattar, is heading the Pakistani side. The 2-day talks will cover bilateral relations and steps to improve them. Soon after Mr Venkateswaran's arrival, the two foreign secretaries had discussions without aides for an hour. Later, Mr Venkateswaran called on the Pakistan minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani.

Earlier, talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport, Mr Venkateswaran said that the objective of his visit is to strengthen the mutual understanding and sort out those questions which tend to cloud our relations. Welcoming Mr Venkateswaran, the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Sattar, said that his country will extend full coopration in the fulfillment of the task that we have been assigned by our governments.

India's Venkateswarn, Noorani Meet

BK271320 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The Indian foreign secretary, Mr A. P. Venkateswaran, called on the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, in Islamabad today. The minister of state for foreign affairs expressed Pakistan's firm desire to have friendly and cordial relations with all its neighbors, particularly India. He also told the Indian foreign secretary that Pakistan would never lag behind in making sincere efforts for the normalization of its relations with India.

Mr Venkateswaran told Mr Zain Noorani that India also desires normalization of relations. He hoped that the atmosphere of distrust would be overcome by the efforts of leaders of both sides. He also referred to the recent meeting of the interior secretaries of the countries and said it would go a long way in improving the relations.

India Propaganda Matter of Concern

BK271540 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Excerpt] The first round of official-level talks between India and Pakistan on normalization of relations was held in Islamabad today. The two sides held indepth discussions on matters relating to mutual apprehensions and on efforts to remove misunderstanding between the two countries. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways to further improve them.

Zain Noorani also told the Indian foreign secretary that the propaganda of certain Indian leaders against Pakistan is a matter of great concern. Pakistan, on the contrary, has been observing great restraint and patience because it believes that this is the only way to normalize relations. [passage omitted]

AFP Reports Further

BK271338 Hong Kong AFP in English 1328 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 27 (AFP) — Pakistan Saturday formally conveyed its anxiety over Indian leaders' "anti-Pakistan belligerent propaganda" as more talks began between the two neighbours on normalising their strained relations, official sources said. Indian Foreign Secretary A.P. Venkateswaran was told by Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani after arriving here for the two days of talks that despite propaganda by some Indian leaders "Pakistan was showing restraint and moderation". Pakistan believed that this was the only way to proceed further towards normalisation of relations marred by three wars in the past 40 years, Mr Noorani said.

India has criticised U.S. arms shipments to Pakistan and expressed fears of Islamabad's nuclear programme, which officials here insist is only for peaceful purposes. The official news agency *Associated Press of Pakistan* (APP) quoted Mr Venkateswaran in his meeting with Mr Noorani as saying he hoped that efforts from both sides would overcome the "atmosphere of mistrust".

The Indian foreign secretary also held detailed discussions with his Pakistani counterpart Abdus Sattar, as a follow up to a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Pakistani Premier Mohammed Khan Junejo during last November's Bangalore summit of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Mr Venkateswaran said he hoped his talks with Mr Sattar "will remove the questions which tend to cloud the confidence in our relationship", adding, "we may not attain all but we will achieve some of the objectives as laid down by our prime ministers."

The foreign secretary-level talks closely follow a meeting earlier this month of the two countries' home secretaries, who decided to strengthen cooperation in checking illegal border crossing by terrorists and drug smugglers.

The Indian foreign secretary said efforts will also be made to enhance an understanding already reached between the two countries to conclude an agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations.

India's Venkateswaran, Sattar Talk

BK271606 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan — Mr Venkateswaran and Mr Abdus Sattar — had the first round of talks in Islamabad today. They first met without aides for an hour. Later, the full delegations had a 4-hour meeting.

The All India Radio Islamabad correspondent, R.K. Mathur, understands that the talks covered the draft of the treaty under which the two countries will refrain from attacking the nuclear installations of the other. The two sides also discussed Pakistan's proposal for a no-war pact and the Indian proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation. Views were also exchanged on the security perception and the situation in the Indian Ocean.

Our correspondent adds that the question of allowing more private trade from India also figured in the discussion. The Indian side signified its readiness to send a railway delegation for concluding an agreement to open the Khokhrapar-Munabao route. Steps to increase people-to-people contact like easing of travel restrictions also came up for consideration. The second round of talks is scheduled for tomorrow morning. Mr Vekate swaran today had a 45-minute meeting with Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani.

India's Venkateswaran, Junejo Meet

BK281529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Indian Foreign Secretary A. P. Venkateswaran called on the prime minister in Rawalpindi this evening. He conveyed Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's message of good wishes to Mohammad Khan Junejo who also expressed similar sentiments. The prime minister expressed happiness on learning from the Indian foreign secretary that the latter's talks with the Pakistani foreign secretary had been satisfactory.

The prime minister told the Indian foreign secretary that Pakistan sincerely desires to have good relations with India and he hopes that the latter, too, is desirous of having such a relationship with Pakistan. Mohammad Khan Junejo recalled his very fruitful talks with Rajiv Gandhi in Bangalore and expressed happiness that decisions then made by the two prime ministers are being followed up with immediate and effective steps.

Joint News Conference Held

BK281712 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Pakistan and India have reaffirmed their commitment to early normalization of relations on the basis of the Simla agreement and in keeping with the visit of the Pakistan president to New Delhi in December last year. Both countries have also agreed to continue the dialogue at an early and mutally convenient date at the foreign secretaries level in New Delhi. This was stated by the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India at a joint news conference in Islamabad this evening after the conclusion of the 2-day official-level talks. Answering a question on the proposed draft agreement on not to attack each other's nuclear installations, the Indian foreign secretary said considerable progress has been made. He expressed the hope that it will be finalized soon. He said the agreement would be signed irrespective of misunderstandings on each other's nuclear program.

Further on News Conference

BK291012 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Considerable progress has been made with regard to the proposed India-Pakistan draft agreement for not attacking each other's nuclear installations. This was stated at a joint press conference of Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries at the conclusion of official-level talks in Islamabad yesterday. They said an in-depth discussion was held on this proposed agreement, but some technical aspects remain to be discussed. Their talks have generated better understanding and progress has been made toward normalization of bilateral relations.

The Indian foreign secretary said he exchanged views with his Pakistani counterpart on the issue of terrorism and noted differences in the views of the two countries in the light of evidence provided by the two governments and, therefore, they also discussed ways and means to remove these differences.

Answering a question about Kashmir, the Indian foreign secretary said this issue is also included in the Simla agreement and the effort now being made by the two sides is to remove obstacles and to clear the air so that they will be able to resolve this issue in a congenial atmosphere.

Commenting on the construction of Wular barrage on the Jhelum River by India, the Indian foreign secretary said the Sind Basin Commission of the two countries has looked into this issue and if the commission is unable to resolve it, the two governments will sit together and strive for the solution of this problem. He said the two sides held general discussion on halting the arms race in the region and stressed the need to check the possibility of such a race which may lead to the induction of highly sophisticated and dangerous weapons into this region.

The Indian foreign secretary said the whole gamut of issues were reviewed during the talks and that he is fully satisfied with the outcome of these negotiations.

The (?Pakistani) foreign secretary said the visit of his Indian counterpart has provided them with the opportunity to hold detailed discussions on bilateral relations in a positive and constructive manner. He said the two countries are striving for an early normalization of bilateral relations which will not only benefit the two peoples, but also promote peace and stability in the region.

About the Indian military exercises near the Pakistani border, the Indian foreign secretary said he has informed Pakistan that there has been no movement of troops.

The Indian foreign secretary said the meetings of the India-Pakistan joint commission and the subcommission will be held in the first quarter of next year.

The Indian foreign secretary said that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will visit Pakistan before the end of next year.

Ziaul Haq Receives Message

BK291022 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Indian Foreign Secretary Venkateswaran called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday. He conveyed to the president messages of good wishes from President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He also apprised

the president of his talks with Pakistani foreign secretary and expressed satisfaction with the outcome.

The president told the Indian foreign secretary that Pakistan has been resolutely pursuing a policy of good-neighborly relations.

Economic Commission Meeting With PRC Continues

PRC Minister, Junejo Meet

BK241700 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, identified the need for expanding the volume of trade in exploring new avenues of economic cooperation between Pakistan and China. Talking to the Chinese vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Mr Lu Xuejian, in Rawalpindi this evening, the prime minister expressed keen interest in the working of the four export (?profiting) zones established in China. The Chinese vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade apprised the prime minister of the important matters relating to bilateral trade and economic cooperation. He also briefed the prime minister about the current deliberations of the Pak-China joint economic committee.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

BK250831 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Pakistan and China signed an agreement in Islamabad today to enhance cooperation in various fields. The agreement was signed on behalf of Pakistan by the federal minister for finance and economic affairs, Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto, and the Chinese vice minister for foreign economic relations and trade, Mr Lu Xuejian, on behalf of his government.

Earlier, the final session of the third meeting of the Pakistan-China Joint Committee on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation was held. China agreed to import 10,000 tons of cotton and two bulk carriers produced at the Karachi shipyard and engineering works.

PRC Official, Finance Minister Meet

BK260619 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Federal Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto has said that the existing Sino-Pakistani deep and fraternal relations are the best example of mutual cooperation and understanding. He was speaking after the signing of a Pakistan-China agreement in Islamabad yesterday.

Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Lu Xuejian in his speech expressed the confidence that the Sino-Pakistani relations in economic and trade fields will grow further in the future.

The next Pakistan-China joint committee session will be held in Beijing.

PRC Boundary Committee Delegation Arrives

BK201148 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] The second session of the Pakistan-China joint Boundary Committee begins in Islamabad tomorrow. A 10-member Chinese delegation arrived in Islamabad this morning from Karachi for the session. Talking to Radio Pakistan's representative at the airport, the delegation leader, Mr (Shu Guanjin), said the joint boundary inspection is a regular feature, carried out in accordance with the protocol signed by the two countries in 1965.

Documents Signed

BK250302 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 25 Dec ;86

[Text] Documents relating to proceedings of the second session of the Pakistan-China joint border inspection committee were signed in Lahore yesterday. They were signed by the 10-member PRC delegation leader (Shu Guanjin) and Foreign Ministry director General Karamatullah Khan Ghowri.

Yaqub Khan To Discuss Afghanistan in Beijing

BK251408 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1605 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] The Pakistan foreign minister on his way out to Beijing has listed Afghanistan as one of the subjects he plans to discuss with China in the light of what he called important developments in the Soviet attitude. The Pakistan-China commonality of interests flows from geographic proximity to Afghanistan and the spillover impact of the turmoil and the geostrategic implications of the Soviet occupation.

China has been closely supportive of the UN demand that all foreign troops withdraw from Afghanistan, letting Afghan refugees return home in honor and safety, and the Afghan people be enabled to set up a government of their choice in a sovereign nonaligned Afghanistan. Beijing has pursued the question of Soviet withdrawal at bilateral level too, prescribing a Soviet pullout as one of the three conditions for normalization of Sino-Soviet relations — The other two being Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia and Soviet troops pullback from the Sino-Soviet border. Side by side, with a message to Pakistan, the USSR has also notified China for the first time of its readiness to discuss the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. It is especially this distinct change in Moscow's attitude, presumably in pursuance of the Kremlin's Asian peace plan, that Beijing and Islamabad wish to discuss during Mr Yaqub Khan's current visit to Beijing. Of course, there will be other subjects, such as the security environment of the region, but it appears that Afghanistan would claim pride of place.

The Pakistan foreign minister has said we have taken careful note of the very positive change in the statements of the Soviet leaders. Islamabad's frank and positive response is understandable. It gives hope to Pakistan's desire for peace. Further, the presence of 3 million Afghan refugees — the largest refugee population in the world — is undoubtedly creating problems, both economic and political, and Pakistan wishes them resolved smoothly. The Afghan refugees themselves are not to blame, but the massive problem in itself provides cover to antisocial elements to indulge in arms and drug trafficking and create the confusion and chaos that tends to destabilize the country.

Pakistan cannot afford the strain on its resources at a time it needs to devote all its energies to developing the country's economy, stabilizing its policy and underwriting its security. The Afghan refugees also are very concerned at the rootless life they are having to lead in tents and kacha [mud] houses away from familiar ancestral settings, and long to return to their homes and hearths. For the Soviets too, the continuing loss of life and limb in a bottomless guerrilla war has become a bleeding wound and Mr Gorbachev has rightly initiated moves to liquidate a grievous liability of the Brezhnev era.

But in the last analysis, it is neither smart Geneva formulations nor positive Kremlin statements that would end the ongoing tragedy in Afghanistan, but how the pious wishes translate themselves into action. If Afghans continue to be scared by whatever is happening outdoors, the 3 million Afghan men, women, and children living in Pakistan, no matter how precariously, would never venture to go back. Nearly 100,000 males have flooded out this year bringing with them the message: It is still not safe to return home. Unless the relentless outflow is stemmed by making it safe for them to stay back, the hope of a solution will prove elusive. The Pakistan and Chinese leaders conferring in Beijing may agree on a positive response to the diplomatic initiatives of the new Soviet leadership, but it is with the Kabul regime's [word indistinct] on the ground that will make the decisive impact.

Delhi Reports Iranian Naval Officer Killed
BK270856 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] A senior Iranian naval officer was gunned down near his official residence in Karachi on Thursday [25 December] night. Police sources described it as a political assassination.

Situation in Karachi Reportedly 'Normal'
BK271714 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The Karachi Administration has announced that a 15-hour curfew relaxation will be given in the Orangi area tomorrow morning, while in Sohrab Goth the curfew restrictions will be relaxed from 0500-1000 [0000-0500 GMT] in the morning and again from 1700-2000 in the evening. The situation in the city remained normal today.

Curfews To Be Relaxed 29 Dec
BK281715 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The situation in Karachi remained peaceful today. The local administration has announced that curfew restrictions will be relaxed from 0500-2000 [0000-1500 GMT] tomorrow in Orangi, Orangi Extension, and Sohrab Goth areas.

Bhutto Reportedly Unable to Visit France
BK241617 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Miss Benazir Bhutto says she has been debarred from leaving Pakistan. Talking to newsmen in Karachi, she said she has been told of a federal order that denies her the right to leave the country. She had a plan to visit France to see her mother and sister, Miss Bhutto said.

Involvement in Iraqi Jet Hijacking Denied

LD260603 Tehran IRNA in English 0602 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran Friday officially denied any involvement in the Thursday hijacking of an Iraqi passenger plane which exploded after an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry stated that the Islamic Republic has explicitly declared time and again that it is against any inhuman acts which may disturb security of civil aviation. "We condemn any moves which may threaten the lives of innocent passengers," he said.

Some sixty people were reportedly killed in the explosion of the Boeing 737 which was hijacked shortly after it left Baghdad airport for Amman Thursday.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman strongly refuted Iraqi claims that Iran was involved in the hijacking, saying that the Baghdad regime was desperately trying to compensate for its bitter defeats in the Karbala-4 operational theater.

The Foreign Ministry official described as "suspicious" the coincidence of the hijacking with the ongoing victories of Iran's Islamic forces in the southern war fronts, "particularly with regard to the Iraqi regime's vicious record in attacking civilian airliners."

Iran's Islamic combatants launched a lightning offensive against Iraqi positions in the southern fronts at 1900 hours GMT Wednesday scoring outstanding victories. At least 1,500 enemy troops were killed, 4,500 others wounded and more than 100 were taken captive and transferred behind the fronts. Two enemy warplanes were also shot down during the operation in addition to the destruction of 100 heavy and light military vehicles and a tank squadron.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman also urged international aviation experts to follow up the incident and expose the facts behind it.

In the course of the six years of the Iraqi imposed war, the Baghdad government has repeatedly threatened civil aviation on Iran's air space. Two years ago Iraq shot down a passenger plane carrying former Algerian Foreign Minister Ben Yahya en route to Tehran. Another Iraqi attack on a passenger plane in southern Iran resulted in the martyrdom of tens of Iranian officials.

Khamene'i Gives Tehran Friday Prayer Sermon

LD261537 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Today's Friday prayers religious-political rites were held throughout the country with great pomp and ceremony. In Tehran the God-fearing, faithful, and committeed people, congregating at Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, observed this Muhammadan tradition under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In his prayer sermons Tehran's Friday imam referred to the wicked deeds perpetrated by the Iraqi warmongering regime, saying: Though these wicked deeds and raids on populated centers, hospitals, and schools are nothing new to our nation, we have retaliated against these bestial raids on the battlefronts. The Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts have been concentrated on retaliating in kind against the Iraqi regime's continued wicked deeds, but since our combatants do not strike at the innocent and oppressed Iraqi people, our attention has been and will be concentrated on the industrial, economic, and military areas and on those places where the Iraqi regimes's mercenaries are assembled and concentrated.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: The Iraqi regime's deep fear of the decisive operations by Islam's combatants, which we have promised the people, which the people are demanding from the combatants, and which will be carried out at an appropriate time in the future, has prompted that oppressive and tyrannical regime to launch barbarous raids on our populated centers and to massacre the innocent people of such cities as Bakhtaran, Eslamabad, and others.

Referring to the dispatch of the great 100,000 strong Mohammad Corps — may Allah's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion — and the combatants' firm resolve until final victory, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i said: The assembling of this corps has produced a decisive effect on the world political climate and has shaken Saddam's supporters, who had such high hopes in him, to the depth of their bones; and Saddam and his supporters should know that there is no other way out vis-a-vis the movement of the Mohammad Corps.

The president of the Republic added: Though we have never left and shall never leave unanswered any move by the Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist regime, nevertheless the Islamic combatants in their small, limited Karbala-4 operations have administered such a rebuff that the enemy shall not not recover from it for a long time.

Stressing the preparedness by various strata of the people to administer the final fateful blow, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: The general mobilization and filling of the fronts with troops is our perennial duty and the move toward the fronts should not have any hitches, so that whenever our intrepid commanders deem the time appropriate, they can take the necessary decisions; and the zealous young men and combatants, particularly those who have acquired combat preparedness and knowledge, should await the orders and call of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Army, and the mobilization of the meek.

Continuing his sermon, the president of the Republic referred to the convening of the great conference of solidarity with the Iraqi nation in Tehran, and said: The world political climate has become more informed and aroused by the convening of this conference; and now the Iraqi nation has expectations from its chosen representatives, and those taking part in this conference should pay heed to the sensitive stage they are going through and what they are thinking about. Furthermore, they should bear in mind Iraq's future problems and its distant future, and the world

too, should look seriously at this conference which is made up of the chosen representatives of the Iraqi nation.

In this same connection, referring to the silence of the mass media, Tehran's Friday imam said: By concealing the news of this conference, the world media will not solve the problem of world arrogance; and they should know that this conference will play an important role in Iraq's future and that the future awaiting the arrogant and their mercenaries in Iraq will not alter, but rather it is the Iraqi nation and its chosen representatives who can chart Iraq's future.

Referring to the bloody clashes in Lebanon, the president of the Republic said: The United States, Israel, and the collaborators of the United States and Israel are deeply worried about the anti-Israeli struggle deep within Lebanon, and for this reason they attempt to sow discord among Lebanese Muslims and Palestinians; and by supporting our Lebanese and Palestinian brothers we condemn such people as the hireling leaders of Jordan, Egypt, and Arab reaction, and also the regime occupying Jerusalem that has caused all this bloodshed, and we insistently call on our Muslim brothers in Lebanon and Palestine to accept the plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran as soon as possible. Instead of killing one another they should point their gun barrels at the common enemy — Israel!

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i once again stressed: The subject of fighting Israel occupies first place in our foreign policy. It is impossible for us to renounce, under any circumstances, our hostility toward usurping Israel. You should know that strategically we will have a definite war and we will adopt a decisive approach toward the Zionist regime, and anyone who wages war against Israel will enjoy our respect. Therefore, the Palestinians and Lebanese should not be seeking pretexts to fight one another.

While expressing thanks for the selflessness shown by the Iranian people in sending help to the flood victims, he said: The Iranian nation, despite the problem of the war, has rendered worthy help to flood-stricken compatriots and we hope that this assistance will continue as before and that the flood victims themselves, too, by displaying more mobility, should strive to overcome this disaster.

SAIRI Chairman on Islamic Resurgence

LD261420 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim was the pre-sermon speaker of the Friday prayers in Tehran today.

While referring to the point that the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution has caused an upsurge in the nation of Islam, he stated: When world arrogance witnessed this Islamic resurgence and felt that its interests were endangered, it began its plots against the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the most important of these arrogant plots being the imposition of war against Iran by the Iraqi regime. While pointing to the sufferings of the Iraqi nation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim remarked: Saddam's regime is relying on three pillars: The first pillar comprises the security and intelligence organizations; the second is the policy of repression and terror; and the third pillar is the support extended to Iraq by world arrogance and regional reactionary countries. However, in spite of the existing repression in Iraq, and all this support, we can see that Saddam's regime is sustaining repeated defeats. This regime is moving toward a most disgraceful defeat.

Continuing his speech, the chairman of the SAIRI reviewed the reasons for the convening of the Conference on Solidarity With the Iraqi People and stated: In this conference, representatives from all strata of the Iraqi people, the clergy, ulema, tribes, and Kurds have come together so that they may declare to the world that Saddam's regime is rejected by the people of Iraq and that they will, in step with the Iraqi people, continue the battle and the [word distinct] until the devil has been overthrown and until a just government accepted by the Iraqi nation is established.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim added: In the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, details of the ways and strategic course of the Iraqi nation will be specified so that it may act as a charter for the future of that country, wherein, the Iraqi nation, despite its ethnic groups and various religious sects, will have equality before the law for all.

Iraqi Solidarity Conference Opens in Tehran

Khamene'i Addresses Conference

LD241254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People [conferance-e hamyari-ye mellat-e Iraq] was opened in Tehran this morning with a speech by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

According to our correspondent's report, in this conference which was convened for the sake of uniting all the Muslim and combative Iraqi groups and for drawing up the program of the struggles of the Muslim Iraqi nation against the Zionist regime ruling over Iraq, a large number of leaders, officials, members, and representatives of various groups and organizations that are opposed to the Iraqi regime, as well as a number of political and religious figures of the Islamic world from Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, Syria, and Libya, are participating.

In the conference inauguration ceremony, Chairman of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyid 'Ali Jamar-Hashemi, in a speech talked about the latest developments in the Islamic Revolution of Iraq. Referring to the goals of the conference, he expressed his hope that this conference would be useful for uniting all the Iraqi opposition groups and drawing up a continuous program for fighting against the Iraqi regime.

Then President Khamene'i spoke, describing this conference as a turning point in the history of the Iraqi nation. He said: This conference can be effective in the future of Iraq and in the state and condition of that country. This would depend upon the seriousness, endeavour, and realism of you, dear brothers, of which we are hopeful, and the Iraqi nation also partakes in this

hope. On the eve of a historical experiment and at a sensitive juncture in its eventful life, the Iraqi nation is justified in pinning its hope upon constructive and capable individuals.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: Without doubt, one of the main figures in the material and spiritual destruction inflicted upon the Iraqi people is Saddam Husayn, who has completely ignored all the values held sacred by the Iraqi people, by Islam, by Arabism, and non-Arab nationalities in Iraq; who has inflicted a hard and disgraceful calamity upon the Iraqi children; and who has denied them any possibility for self-expression.

The president added: The Arab nations and the entire Islamic nation is justified in asking the Iraqi regime why, at a time when the Islamic world is faced with the daily increasing conspiracies of world arrogance, is more than ever in need of unity and solutions to its problems, and is expending all its material and human resources for getting rid of these problems; and at a time when the active strength of a fledgling Islamic Republic would have been able to raise the morale of the Arabs and give them the promise of [the restoration of] Islamic glory, why at such a time, instead of siding with this front-running and revolutionary nation and collaborating with it, they wage war against it and engage the effective and helpful forces of the Islamic Republic in self-defense and the defense of its revolution.

Continuing his speech, President Khamene'i referred to the common moral and historical heritage of the Iranian and Iraqi nations, the existence of the holy shrines [in Iraq] and the role of religious seminaries in an ancient affinity between the two nations, and said: As a friend and as a nation which has the longest common border with Iraq and which has been the victim of aggression by the regime of that country and has been forced into a destructive war, we cannot be indifferent to the future of Iraq, which could continue such a situation in the future. Due to geographical and political reasons, any move that would pose a threat against Iraq's territorial integrity is also a hostile action against us.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: Recognized international borders between us and Iraq would remain in effect, and the political future of Iraq, which is something that should be decided by the people of that country, should be settled in such a way that would guarantee its territorial integrity.

According to a Central News Unit report, in the opening ceremony of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, in addition to the participation of 423 leaders and officials of various Muslim and combative Iraqi groups from various countries, also present were:Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Karrubi; Secretary of the Combative Clergy Association Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani; Supervisor of the Islamic Propaganda Organization Jannati; Chairman of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran Colonel Sohrabi; and a number of Majlis deputies and national figures.

SAIRI Chairman's Address

LD241434 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, after the speech by Khamene'i, Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim made a speech about the difficulties and afflictions of the Iraqi people, the future outlook of Iraq after Saddam's downfall, and the SAIRI role. Referring to the daily increasing operations by Iraqi mujahidin and fighters, he said: We expect the delivery of the final blow upon the Ba'thist-Zionist regime. At the same time, we notice that the Iraqi nation does not afford recognition to that regime and is fighting against it.

The SAIRI chairman, continuing his speech, referred to the unity between the Turks, Kurds, Arabs, and the Iraqi ulema and the need for unity among all the Muslims of that country. He said: At this juncture, we desperately need real unity and we should not bring to bear any sectarian or racial differences or differences in viewpoints and political aspirations. The aim is not that the Shi'ites become Sunnis or Sunnis become Shi'ites; but all of us should act from a united political and propaganda position.

He added: As we have done in the past, we should not allow the Iraqi regime to take a fresh breath; and this would be the only solution for the Iraqi nation. The Iraqi regime is forcing the Iraqi nation into submission with complete savagery; but we should make plans to see how we can help that nation along the path of its struggle, which is the path of the martyrs and saints of Islam.

Continuing his speech, he said. What is at issue is the struggle of the entire nation against the regime. We shall continue this struggle until the complete destruction and downfall of the Iraqi regime.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim then referred to the conspiracy of world arrogance that is trying to portray the imposed war as the war bwtween Persians and Arabs, and said: This war is the war between the oppressed and the arrogant, between good and evil. We believe that this war should continue until the final downfall of the regime ruling Iraq.

At the end of his speech, he referred to the positions of SAIRI, and said: The issue of the holy war is one of the important issues of SAIRI. SAIRI is not a government in exile but is an organization that strengthens the desire for holy war and for struggle. SAIRI follows the goals of the Iraqi nation and will continue its holy war.

Velayati Addresses Banquet

LD251423 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 25, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati speaking in a dinner banquet given in honour of the guests attending the 'Conference on Iraqi People's Cooperation', here Wednesday night said that the Iraqi opposition groups should make full use of the present conditions and opportunities. The Iraqi opposition, he added is going through a

crucial stage, along with the rest of the Iraqi people in the struggle against the ruling fascist regime. In this struggle they enjoy backing of the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran, Velayati added.

At present, he added, the Iraqi regime is more vulnerable than ever and the defence put up by the Muslim combatants of Iran in the Iraqi-imposed war, has paved the way for the downfall of the Baghdad regime.

Elsewhere in his speech, he said the disclosure of the crimes and atrocities of the Iraqi ruler to the world will acquaint the world with Saddam's true barbaric nature. World public opinion, he added, has come to realise that survival of the Iraqi regime would merely prolong the perpetration of injustice, and will result in destruction of Iraq's human and economic resources as well as pave the way for continued presence of global oppressors in the region.

Downfall of the Iraqi regime, he pointed out, will result in a lasting peace and unity of Muslims in the region.

Velayati referred to alliance of regimes of Baghdad, Amman, Cairo, and Tel Aviv, as the major obstacle on the way of establishment of a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. Ouster of the Iraqi regime, he told the visitors, will endanger existence of the Zionist regime and will intensify the struggle of Muslims against the Zionist state. Velayati further described the Iraqi aggression against Iran, the Zionist attacks on Lebanon and occupation of parts of that country, and attacks of world oppressors against revolutionary countries such as Libya and Syria as a by-product of the unholy alliance of Baghdad, Amman, Cairo and Tel Aviv.

In his concluding remarks Dr Velayati expressed hope the conference would further unify the Iraqi opposition groups and accelerate overthrow of the Baghdad regime.

Musavi on Saddam's 'Downfall'

LD251326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, speaking at the second meeting of the Conference of Solidarity with the Iraqi People and expounding on the positions adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the imposed war, this morning emphasized that Saddam's downfall will pave the way for a lasting peace in the region.

Our correspondent reports from this conference that it is being attended by large groups of leaders; responsible officials, members, representatives of parties, organizations and groups opposing the Saddam regime; and a number of ulema and political and religious figures from the Islamic world from Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, and Libya. After a speech made by Abu Ahmad, the educational official of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq on the role of the mobilization in the future of Iraq's Islamic Revolution and the singing of a number of revolutionary songs by Iraqi POW's, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, expressing appreciation for the participation by our fighting Iraqi brothers in this conference and their solidarity in fighting Iraq's Zionist regime, referred to their presence as indicative of the continuation along the path of struggle and the perpetuation of the liberation movements. Addressing those attending the conference, he said: Today you shall be able to play a lofty role in Iraq's history.Iraq belongs to the Iraqi nation and just as today we wish to cut short the aggressive hand of the United States by putting into effect Islam's revolutionary decrees, we believe that no hand of covetousness should be extended toward Iraq. It is the Iraqi nation that will bring about a government of its choosing; and undoubtedly with the downfall of Saddam the possibility of establishing a lasting peace will be created.

The prime minister added: It was a mistake when certain regional regimes tied their futures and aspirations to those of the Iraqi regime. So far the Iraqi regime has rained hundreds of missiles and bombs on our border cities and war zones; nevertheless, it has suffered a relentless defeat. Mr Musavi said: Certain regional countries think that after Saddam it will be their countries' turn. This is misguided thinking planted in the minds of regional politicians by Saddam and his agents. We candidly proclaim that after Saddam, it will be the turn of peace, construction, and stability in the interest of the nations; and should another war flare up after Saddam, what is certain is that it would be a battle against Israel -- and Saddam constitutes the first earthwork in this battle. Therefore, it is perfectly obvious that with Saddam's downfall the path will be paved for waging battle against Israel and its acolytes and toward political cooperation in the Persian Gulf.

Continuing his speech the prime minister said: Selecting the conference venue in Tehran is nothing fortuitous and is not a matter of choice. We are now fighting against the Baghdad ruling regime along a front 100 kilometers long and we are determined to continue along this path until final victory. SAIRI exists as a central core of this fight and is paving the way to coordinating all the struggles along this path. The prime minister added: We deem that the greatest victory is returning to ourselves, and we perceive the greatest dangers as emanating from the culture of veering towards the West and toward lack of independence.

In conclusion, the prime minister emphasized the necessity of preserving unity until securing final victory and called on the conference participants to put aside all their differences under the banner of Islam, brotherhood, and fraternity, and then to proceed to translate words into action under the divine banner of Islam and the sacred Islamic aspirations.

SAIRI Spokesman Speaks

LD251430 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text]Our correspondent reports that Spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Mahmud al-Hashimi made a speech to a meeting of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People calling on the groups opposing the regime ruling in Iraq, by relying on Islamic principles, to beware of discord and differences, to adopt as a yardstick

the true ideological school of Islam, and to strive toward a practical and objective realization of Islam. Reviewing the history of the Islamic struggles waged by the Iraqi people, he emphasized: Only the followers of Islam and the Koran can save the Iraqi people from the evil of Iraq's criminal government.

Emphasizing the fact that only the Iraqi people have the right to determine Iraq's future, the SAIRI spokesman said that any ties between Iraqi dissidents and the agents affiliated with either East or West are a deviation, adding: Having links with the East and West will harm the people's struggle and will be instrumental in destroying the deep-oted, worthy culture of the Iraqi people.

He called on all forces opposing the regime ruling Iraq to behave with sincerity toward the people and to utilize all their material and moral capabilities to address the fundamental issue of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq and the overthrow of the Saddam regime, and to refrain from discussing divisive issues regarding Iraq's political future.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Mahmud al-Hashimi, reviewing the developments in the imposed war, referred to the war front against the aggressor mercenaries of the Iraqi regime as a vast open front and a golden opportunity for all the genuine forces opposing the Saddam regime to demonstrate their sincerity and firm resolve in waging decisive armed struggle for the overthrow of the Saddam regime.

In conclusion, while emphasizing the need to continue an armed struggle, he called on Iraqi mujahidin to adopt the martyr Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr as their revolutionary model!

Musavi-Ardabili Address

LD271221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] On the 4th day of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, three captured Iraqis, expressing joy that they have been saved from the Iraqi regime and that they are the guests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, displayed a large placard on which thousands of Iraqi POW's had signed their names with their blood, requesting Iranian officials to allow them to participate in the imposed war.

Musavi-Ardabili, head of the State Supreme Court, while expressing hope for the successful achievement of this conference with regard to Iraq's future, and referring to the imposed war of the Iraqi regime against Iran, stated: We are not waging war against the Iraqi nation but against a bloodsucking regime which is crazily continuing its crimes. That regime tried to annihilate the Iraqi nation before its attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran, and due to this very reason you have to shoulder the responsibility of struggling to liberate the Iraqi people.

The head of the State Supreme Court added: This war that has been imposed on the two nations of Iran and Iraq is a war against all divine and humanitarian values and all the liberation movements of the world. In the midst of this it is evident to everyone how much the propoganda mass media of the world have benefitted from the consequences of this war and are sowing discord between the two nations. All analyses and commentaries are deceitful, and they all aim to portray this war as an ethnic war on the borders. All these efforts to cover up Saddam's crimes are aimed at obliterating the true character of this war.

Musavi-Ardabili stated: Our devoted troops are well aware of the oppression the Iraqi nation is suffering; because of this, with the convening of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, a move and base toward the liberation and future of Iraq will be beginning. You should know that the psychological war conducted by world arrogance, to place obstacles between you and us, has not ended, and propaganda machines are trying to portray Iran's decision to eliminate Saddam as an expansionist drive. You must struggle to destroy this psychological war, and every freed Iraqi should know that all Islamic Republic of Iran officials and the Iranian nation distance themselves from the idea of expansionism. The Islamic Republic of Iran is following the objective of an eventual independent and liberated Iraq which will no more protect the interests of the enemies of God, and while respecting its neighbors, will provide security and stability to the Iraqi people who will themselves determine the future of their country and the establishment of their government.

In conclusion, Musavi-Ardabili stressed: The enemies of Islam must know that any threat against the nation and territory of Iraq will be considered as a threat against us.

Hezbollah, Libyan Officials Speak

LD271152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Continuing the work of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, Mr Sayyid Ibrahim al-Amin, one of the leaders of the Lebanese Hezbollah, in a speech expressing his pleasure at participating in the conference, said [announcer read]: The holy have graciously commanded that Israel be wiped from the face of the earth! In Lebanon we are not fighting for Lebanese rule. Its geography and maps are no cause for honor to us. What really brings dignity and honor are the great efforts throughout history. We are continuing the war for Islam and its stability.

According to this report, the Libyan charge d' affaires to the Islamic Republic of Iran, then, in a short speech addressed to the conference participants, said [announcer read]: We proclaim our solidarity with you so that the destiny of the Iraqi people can be realized. Every person and every group, every party and every organization that bears arms and fights against the Iraqi regime is revolutionary and enjoys God's support. He emphasized: We are hopeful of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in this war since it has resulted in a great many achievements for the Islamic nations. In conclusion, the Libyan charge d'affaires, in declaring that Libya, Iran, and Syria were supporting the Iraqi fighting forces, emphasized the necessity of waging battle until the victory of Islam over world arrogance. He wished the Iraqi fighters victory in this sacred battle.

To end today's meeting, the following spoke: Dr Abu 'Ali Sayyid al-Yasiri and Hojjat ol-Eslam Nu'mani, among those opposing the Saddam regime; Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Mufattih, a fighting

clergyman from Syria; Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Khatimi, an Iraqi struggler; Mr Taj al-'Imad, an Iraqi Kurdish fighter; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Sami al-Badri, an Iraqi clergyman. They spoke on the need for unity and expanding the struggle in various dimensions toward the overthrow of the Iraqi Zionist regime.

Iraqi Kurdish Officials Interviewed

LD271308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Idris Barzan, from the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan; Fu'ad Ma'sum, from the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, and Rasul Mamend, from the Socialist Party of Iraqi Kurdistan, who are in Tehran participating in the Conference of Solidarity with the Iraqi People, were interviewed by our correspondents.

One of the participants in this interview, referring to the results of the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, said: This seminar was very successful. Most Iraqi organizations and groups, from whatever ethnic group, took part. It is extremely fortunate that the Islamic Republic of Iran has succeeded in convening this meeting. In this conference various issues were raised. Among them were Iraq's future, how it should be governed, the removal of differences among groups, and the joint organization of the struggle for the toppling of the Saddam regime in Iraqi Kurdistan. Also discussed were the question of the liquidation of oppression against the Kurdish people in a future Iraq and constant cooperation with the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq. He said good results had been achieved.

In connection with the ties between Iraqi Kurds and Iran, he said: At present, Iran, thanks to cooperation with various Iraqi Kurdish groups, is endeavoring extremely successfully toward dealing a blow on the Iraqi Army. We have already observed the results of this in a number of operations. We believe that Iran is extremely important in connection with setting up on its territory a base of dissidents and opposition to the Iraqi Government.

Another of the participants in the Conference of Solidarity With the Iraqi People, in connection with the total violation of human rights in Iraq and the massacre of defenseless Iranian and Iraqi peoples by the Iraqi Zionist regime, said: Unfortunately, international forums and the world mass media have all remained totally silent on all these crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi regime, particularly the use of chemical weapons in the war against Iran. Even the merciless massacres of the Iraqi people by the Iraqi rulers have not attracted their attention.

Another participant in this interview, in connection with the intervention by Turkey in the internal affairs of Iraqi Kurdistan, said: It is essential to note that we never interfere in Turkey's internal problems. In the future, we have no intention of clashing with the Turkish Government. However, we believe the Turkish Government's propaganda, which runs contrary to the truth, is tantamount to that government's backing for the Iraqi Zionist system. We hope that the Turkish Government, while paying heed to Iraq's future, would pay attention to the injustices carried out by the Iraqi regime against the Kurdish people and would leave the Iraqi people free to choose their future government!

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks

LD281301 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28, IRNA — The Conference on Iraqi People's Cooperation (IPC) is the first practical and coordinated step towards liberation of the Iraqi people from Ba'th tyranny, said Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the final session of the IPC confab here Saturday. Rafsanjani emphasized that the IPC secretariat should follow up the decisions taken by the conference and pinpoint the weak point of any participant group.

The Majlis speaker said that the Karbala-4 operations (launched by Iran Wednesday night) was a blow to stop the Ba'thist regime's atrocities, specifically its attacks on economic centers and residential areas. He also said that the Ba'th Party had conspired to hinder the holding of the conference by intensifying air raids on Iran's civilian areas. But Iran's Islamic combatants gifted the conference with the Karbala-4 operation which was a blow to extinguish the fire that Saddam was fanning. The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council said the Iranian combatants undertook the operation in what he described as a very difficult and strategic area. He further said that the situation now has completely changed and that Iran will not confine itself to merely inflicting blows on enemy military and economic installations. The Karbala-4 operations, he said, showed that we are not content with mere retaliatory strikes on enemy military and economic centers and that Iran will now widen and broaden the scope of its military operations. Rafsanjani furthermore dismissed Iraqi and its dependent news media claims that the Karbala-4 operation was the long-promised offensive, stalled in its tracks, saying the Islamic Republic of Iran was counting down for the decisive final blow. He said that any major reconstruction in the region is impossible without a permanent peace between the two countries of Iran and Iraq and that only the enemies derive satisfaction from the prolongation of the war. He emphasized that the only way to end the war was ouster of Saddam and his Ba'th clique and the realization of the rights of the nations of Iran and Iraq. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani also hinted that after defeating the Iraqi regime then preparations would be made for the war with the Zionist regime. He called for a coordinated anti-Zionist campaign. The Majlis speaker called on all Iraqi people and strugglers to enter the wide arena of armed struggle against the Baghdad regime. He further said that "under the present circumstances, there is no way but to cross a blood river for the liberation of the Iraqi people and land." Speaker Rafsanjani in his concluding remarks lauded Syria for her resistance against the Zionist expansionism.

Resolution Issued

LD281021 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28, IRNA — The conference on Iraqi people's cooperation ended work Saturday evening with the issuance of a 17 point resolution calling for formation of a military committee to coordinate activities of Iraqi militants. The

resolution also stressed on the need for continued combat of the Muslim forces of Iran until final victory and overthrow of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

In the closing session of the conference which opened here Wednesday with participation of more than 400 foreign guests and a large number of Iranian personalities, reports of the five commissions of the conference were presented, points of which are included in the final resolution.

Various personalities including the Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and several other speakers addressed the conference. Different speakers stressed the need for unity of action in the campaign against the Baghdad regime and to refrain from any act which might instigate ethnic and group tendencies. The speakers also unanimously said that territorial integrity of Iraq must be respected and the oppressed people of that country be allowed to determine their own future.

One of the speakers of the session, Rasul Mamand, a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, disclosed facts on the barbaric nature of the ruling regime in Iraq, saying that the ongoing Iraqi-imposed war has been forced upon Iran by Iraq on the orders of the world oppressors and the reactionaries of the region. The Iraqi Kurds, he told the conference, although fighting against the Ba'thist regime in a certain locality, have devoted themselves to the freedom of the Iraqi people. To this end, he pointed out, all Iraqi groups should be unified. Another Kurdish militant, Kamal Kirkuki, urged independent and freedom loving governments of the world to isolate the Baghdad regime.

In the final session of the four-day conference, a letter of Iraqi refugees in Iran was read in which Iraqi militant groups were urged to fight against the Iraqi regime in a united rank.

The resolution praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's initiative in holding the conference and described it as a "great and revolutionary step". It referred to victory of the Islamic Revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni as a victory of the world dispossesed and said that any hostile move against the Islamic Revolution of Iran was in fact a move against the global movement against oppression.

Condemning inhuman and fascistic moves of the Iraqi rulers and its violation of human rights in its harassment and torture of Iraqi dissidents, confiscation of their properties, and their deportation, it called on international bodies to pay heed to the calls of the oppressed people of Iraq.

According to the resolution the imposed war is a war between two cultures and civilisations, one ruled by imperialism and its agents and the other run in accordance with human values. It stressed the need for continuation of the war until overthrow of the ruling regime of Baghdad and stated that survival of the Iraqi regime means perpetuation of racist values and imperialist plans.

In the view of the resolution, if the war stops, with the Ba'thist Iraqi regime remaining in power, then it would take advantage of the opportunity to massacre the Iraqi nation. Therefore, it added, the conditions set forward by Iran for ending the war are just, especially the one calling for ouster of Saddam Husayn because of his regime being the root of all vice. The resolution pointed out that all Iraqi militant groups are fully ready to actively participate towards materialising this objective.

The conference deplored imperialist hatched plots to fan the flames of the war and its efforts to ensure survival of the Iraqi regime and help it continue its aggressions by providing it with modern arms. The Iraqi nation, it pointed out, will not honor the obligations of the present Iraqi regime towards oppressor and reactionary governments. The resolution appealed to peace loving nations to exert pressure on plotters and prevent them from carrying out their evil plans.

In another point of the resolution Iraqi attacks on Iranian civilian areas, commercial planes, and ships and also deployment of chemical weapons were strongly condemned. It described these beastly acts as proof of the inhuman nature of the regime which necessitates its overthrow.

The resolution called for escalation of military operations against the Iraqi ruler and stressed importance of formation [of] a standing military committee made up of all warrior forces with the involvement of representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The conference recommended that all opposition groups escalate their attacks on economic and oil installations of Iraq and called on the workers of these centers to actively participate in bringing down the regime of Saddam Husayn.

Calling on Iraqi military personnel to take part in freeing the Iraqi nation, the conference urged all Iraqi military men who fled the country to unite. It also called on tribal people of Iraq to make serious efforts in the anti-Saddam campaign and provide means for this struggle. Islam, stressed the resolution, is the true identity of the Iraqi people and the future government of this country should be in line with the aspirations of the Iraqi nation.

According to the resolution the future Iraqi Government must safeguard the national unity [and] ensure social justice and equity regardless of race, religion, and language. In the light of the sufferings of the Iraqi Kurds, it added, the future government must materialise all legitimate rights of the Kurds within the framework of national unity and establish social justice and ensure rights of religious and ethnic minorities. In another part of the resolution protection of territorial integrity of Iraq and its independence was stressed.

The conference has called for formation of a committee of Iraqi experts and social groups to draft the proposed constitutional law for Iraq within the framework of the approvals of the conference, whose task is carried out by the "special commission for evaluation of future government of Iraq".

According to the resolution the issue of Palestine is the foremost issue of Muslims. It noted that all Muslim nations should take steps towards annihilation of the Zionist regime through various means especially armed jihad. All forces are called upon to work towards this end, it added. Furthermore the conference called for formation of a standing central committee to follow up the outcome of the conference. The central committee will have three

branch committees: military, legal and political, it added. The conference stressed that it will continue its struggle until materilisation of objectives of the martyrs of the Islamic struggle of Iraq.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hadi Hakim, an Iraqi militant, told IRNA in an interview that in recent years the Iraqi regime had tried to alienate Iraqi youth from Islamic values and prevent their tilt towards Islamic Revolution. He said the regime has utterly failed to accomplish this. He also told IRNA that armed actions and martyrdom seeking moves had been carried out by the Iraqi youth in years past.

Ammunition 'Accidentally' Explodes at Garrison

LD271504 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 27, IRNA — The boom of an explosion heard in some parts of the capital at 14:40 hours local time (11:10 hours GMT) Saturday was caused by a consignment of ammunition which accidentally detonated at a military garrison here, according to informed sources. The sources told IRNA that the ammunition exploded while it was being transported at the garrison compounds.

A number of people wounded in the explosion were transferred to a nearby hospital, the sources said.

Opposition Cited on Over 500 Killed

LD281516 Kuwait KUNA in English 1254 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] London, Dec 28 (KUNA) — Over five hundred Iranian Revolutionary Guards, including many ranking commanders and officers, have been killed as a massive blast ripped through a weapons depot in Tehran yesterday, according to an Iranian opposition group here Sunday.

In a statement to the press a spokesman for the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization in London said the explosion, the cause of which is still unknown, occurred in the Revolution Guards "Beheshti" center for armaments and supplies. He said much of the arms shipments from Tehran's airport and various ports were stored in this base, "directly supervised and commanded" by the minister of [the] Revolutionary Guards Corps, Mohsen Rafiqdust.

Montazeri Cables Bakhtaran Official on Bombing

LD241455 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 24, IRNA — Future spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, said Tuesday that Iraq's renewed bombing of Bakhtaran, Eslamabad-e-Gharb, and other Iranian cities was done solely to realize the imperialistic objectives of the world oppressors. The arrogant world powers and their proxies in the region think that by perpetrating such atrocities they can break the firm determination of the Iranian nation who are struggling under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, to eradicate injustice, Ayatollah Montazeri said.

Ayatollah Montazeri made the remarks in a cable to Imam Khomeyni's representative and Bakhtaran's Friday leader, Hojjat ol-Eslam Zarandi, who had sent a telegram apprising him of the bombings in this western border province.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Bakhtaran Residential Areas Hit Again

LD241617 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 24, IRNA — Six civilians were martyred and 57 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in this western Iranian city again Wednesday afternoon. Some houses were either destroyed or damaged in this inhuman enemy raid.

The city of Bakhtaran has been subjected to repeated enemy air raids over the past few days in which scores of civilians have been martyred and wounded.

Retaliatory Shelling Begun

LD241626 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 24, IRNA — Iraqi military, economic sites as well as troop concentration centers along the 250 kilometer borders in the cities of Khormal, Seyyed Sadiq, Khanaqin, Badrah, and Zurbatiyah were subjected to heavy Iranian artillery fire Tuesday and Wednesday.

During the shelling carried out in retaliation for Iraqi bombardment of Iranian residential areas in Bakhtaran and Eslamabad-e Gharb, over 100 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and movements of the enemy were halted in the said regions.

Iraqi Military, Economic Sites Hit

LD251044 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 25, IRNA — Air Force planes of the Islamic Republic of Iran in an operation at 08:10 hours local time (04:40 GMT) Thursday severely bombed military and economic establishments of the Iraqi city of Al 'Amadiyah, northern Iraq, said a Joint Staff Headquarters statement Thursday. All the Iranian pilots returned safe to their bases safely [as received] after successfully carrying out their mission, it added.

Iraqi Communications Center Shelled

LD261632 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA — An Iraqi tele-communication center in Abu al-Khasib region in northern Al-Faw peninsula was destroyed by heavy artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Thursday. Enemy communication links in this region were disrupted as a result of the destruction of this center.

'Karbala IV' Offensive Launched

LD250921 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0906 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. According to reports received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, the center of the joint operations of the Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the mighty combatants of Islam, replying to the recent mischief by the Ba'thist, Zionist enemy in attacking the residential and industrial areas of our country, commenced operation Karbala IV, codenamed Mohammad Rasul Allah. As soon as we receive more reports, we will inform you, the martyr-nurturing nation.

'Heavy Losses' Inflicted on Iraqis

LD250929 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0910 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention: On the basis of a report received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, the Karbala IV operations began at 2230 [1900 GMT] last night along one of the southern operational axes. During these operations, the combatants of Islam, by crossing harassing obstacles and other barricades created by the Iraqi Zionist regime, succeeded in inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

During these operations, the warriors of Islam, by capturing Umm al-Rasas Island, located in the middle of Shatt al-'Arab, destroyed 80 percent of the Iraqi 604th Infantry Brigade and 50 percent of the 22d brigade, both of the Iraqi 15th Army. During these operations, large numbers of enemy troops were either killed or wounded and some were captured by the forces of Islam.

'Sensitive Enemy Centers' Captured

LD250936 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0923 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, during last night's operation by the combatants of Islam, which was staged to destroy the forces of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, the brave forces of Islam captured a number of sensitive enemy centers that had been used to shell the resisting towns of Abadan and Khorramshahr.

They destroyed the 604th Infantry Brigade of the 15th Iraqi division; completely wiped out a tank battalion and 100 light and heavy vehicles; and captured a large number of enemy troops.

Communique Issued on Offensive

LD251112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, issued a communique today as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Continue fighting until there is no sedition. [Koranic verse]

O you the God-seeking nation, the selfless nation! The combatants of Islam, to retaliate for recent atrocities by the Iraqi regime and with the objective of destroying the Zionist enemy forces, launched the Karbala-IV operations at 2230 [1900 GMT] last night and, after crossing obstacles and fortifications of the Zionist enemy forces, succeeded in infiltrating the Umm al-Rasas, Umm al-Babi, Qit'ah, and Suhayl islands in Shatt al 'Arab, inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the enemy.

During these destructive operations, the forces of Islam, after crossing the harassing obstacles and fortifications of the Iraqi Zionist regime's forces, succeeded in destroying 80 percent of the Iraqi 604th Infantry Brigade from the 15th division, 50 percent of the 22d Infantry Brigade, 50 percent of the 47th Infantry Brigade of the 11th Division, 60 percent of the 111th Brigade of the 15th Division, and 50 percent of the 802d and the 49th Infantry Brigades. Also during these operations, a tank company of Iraq was completely destroyed and 100 of their light and heavy vehicles were set ablaze. During these operations, a large number of the Zionist enemy troops were either killed or wounded and a number of them were taken prisoner by our forces.

[Signed] The Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters

Iraqi Naval Base, Oil Complex Hit

LD251133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Report by Central News Unit correspondent from the "Karbala IV operational zone" — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The brave and heroic fighters of Islam last night started the glorious Karbala IV operations, with the holy code name of Ya Mohammad [as heard], God's benediction and salutation be upon him and his scion. [passage omitted]

It should be added that last night your children, martyr-nurturing nation, while they had sprayed themselves with perfume and with their fragrant smell had given a spiritual fragrance to the battlefronts with their scent, and while relying on the support of their heroic fathers and mothers, rushed the enemy lines and crushed them as they had done in the past.

Heroic Iranian nation, spontaneously with Karbala IV operations your children attacked with two surface-to-surface missiles the important Umm al-Qasr naval base, the concentration center of Iraqi naval forces, and the Al-Bakr oil terminal. Also, the coastal

artillery units of the naval forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, executing heavy and crushing artillery fire, attacked the remainder of Al-'Amyah oil terminal, which had been set on fire during the Karbala III operations. This attack destroyed another part of this oil terminal. A number of Iraqi frigates were also hit and one was sunk, going to the bottom of the Persian Gulf.

The intensity of fire by the fighters of Islam was such that the fire resulting from the destruction of Umm al-Qasr naval base and Al-Bakr and Al-'Amyah oil terminals could be clearly seen from Khawr-'Abdallah coasts.

Offensive 'Militarily Important'
LD251158 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 25, IRNA — Iraqi forces have so far sustained heavy casualties and losses in the Karbala-4 operations launched by Iranian Muslim combatants in the southern fronts Wednesday night [24 December].

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) in response to a question as to whether the Karbala-4 operations was Iran's major offensive, said Thursday that Karbala-4 is aimed at annihilating enemy troops and is militarily important mostly because of novel tactics used in the offensive.

The spokesman said that the Iraqi regime in an effort to boost the morale of its troops had claimed that the operations were launched in an area extending from "Basra to Al-Faw peninsula" and that Iranian forces had failed in achieving their objectives. The spokesman however dismissed these Iraqi claims and said predetermined goals were being reached in the Karbala-4 operations.

Muslim forces of Iran infiltrated Umm al-Rasas Island inflicting substantial casualties and damage on enemy troops stationed on the island, the spokesman said. The success of Iranian Muslim combatants in crossing the Arvand River and breaking through the fortified enemy positions around Umm al-Rasas Island was an astonishing move from the military point of view because Iraqi forces never thought Iranian combatants could cross the river so swiftly and attack them.

2 Iraqi Warplanes Downed in South
LD251548 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec 25, IRNA — Two Iraqi warplanes were shot down by the anti-aircraft fire of Iran's Muslim combatants over the Karbala-4 theatre of the southern fronts Thursday afternoon. A latest report reaching here said that the two planes, attempting to bombard positions of the Iranian forces in the said theatre, were downed before carrying out any mission. No report was immediately available on the fate of pilots of the enemy planes.

Third Iraqi Warplane Downed
LD261815 Tehran IRNA in English 1812 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Karbala-4 operational theater, Dec 26, IRNA — An intruding Iraqi warplane was shot down here by Iranian anti-aircraft fire Friday afternoon bringing the number of enemy planes downed since the beginning of the operation Wednesday night to three. There is yet no immediate report on the fate of the plane's pilot.

Karbala-4 offensive was launched by Muslim forces of Iran in the southern fronts Wednesday night.

Iraqi Casualities Exceed 1,500
LD251642 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Dec 25, IRNA — Enemy casualties in Karbala 4 operation launched by Iran's Muslim combatants in the southern fronts Wednesday night, have exceeded 1,500, according to a communique issued by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' joint Army-IRGC Hq. Thursday evening. [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 25 December adds that 4,500 Iraqi soldiers have been wounded in the Karbala IV fighting]

The communique added that many Iraqi troops had also been taken captive during the lightning offensive, of whom some 100 have so far been transferred behind the fronts. [passage omitted]

Fatalities Raised to 3,000
LD261055 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] The number of enemy troops killed during the demolition operations of Karbala-IV has reached 3,000. According to the *Islamic Republic News Agency*, IRNA, in the process of these operations the combatants of Islam inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the enemy. According to estimates by military experts in the operational sector, thus far 3,000 enemy trooops have been killed and 6,500 others have been wounded. According to the report, during the demolition operations by the combatants of Islam, hundreds of light and heavy weapons, armored vehicles, and tanks belonging to the Zionist enemy were set ablaze and destroyed.

Air Cover Provided During Offensive
LD251725 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Karbala-4 operational region, Dec 25, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters set ablaze Iraqi positions and fortifications during a series of sorties providing air-cover for the Muslim combatants in the Karbala-4 operations, Thursday. The Iranian fighter bombers prevented the Iraqi warplanes from bombing Iranian positions by constantly patrolling the air space of the operational region. The Iranian jet fighters returned to their bases safely after carrying out their missions. [passage omitted]

Objectives of 'Limited Offensive'

LD261230 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA — The Iraqi regime has resorted to filthy propaganda tactics in a vain bid to boost the sagging morale of its badly beaten troops, said a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH), here Friday.

The spokesman told IRNA that the heavy casualties and losses inflicted on the Ba'thist troops in the limited Iranian Karbala-4 operations, in the southern fronts Wednesday night, has made the Iraqi regime desperately profer every conceivable lie to inspire its demoralized forces. The Iraqi regime is in fact trying to make a mountain out of a molehill, the spokesman added.

The objectives of the Karbala-4 offensive were to annihilate enemy troops, said the spokesman, adding that Iran had announced that the Karbala-4 operation was a limited offensive aimed at demolishing Iraqi troop sites and artillery emplacements on the opposite bank of the Arvand River in Wednesday night's offensive.

During the Karbala-4 operation, the spokesman said, Iranian forces broke through the numerous enemy barricades and surprised Iraqi troops in their fortified positions, inflicting substantial losses and casualties on them. After successfully achieving their objectives the Islamic forces returned safely to their bases, he added.

He termed the Iraqi claims that Iranian forces had initially occupied the western bank of Arvand River and captured certain other places, as 'pure fabrication.' The Muslim forces had temporarily [word indistinct] soldiers, he added.

The Muslim forces of Iran by having launched the Karbala-4 operations proved again that they are capable of overcoming any obstacle and deal telling blows on the enemy, said the spokesman.

He concluded that the agileness of the Muslim combatants has deprived Iraqi forces of the least respite and they are nervously awaiting yet another decisive blow at any moment.

Iraqis Respond With Chemical Weapons

LD261509 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec 26, IRNA — Iraqi forces fired chemical shells at Iranian positions in parts of the Karbala-4 operational theater on the eastern bank of the Arvand River Friday morning wounding some Iranian combatants.

The renewed Iraqi use of chemical weapons was the direct result of the bitter defeats its forces sustained in the Karbala-4 offensive launched by Iranian forces in the southern fronts Wednesday night. Iranian anti-chemical weapons units took necessary measures to neutralize the impact of the toxic gases in the region shortly after the enemy fired the chemical shells. The wounded were transferred to hospitals for treatment.

In the course of the six-year-old imposed war, Iraq has repeatedly resorted to chemical weapons in a blatant violation of international laws. As a result thousands of Iranian forces have been wounded and scores of them martyred. Despite world-wide condemnation the Baghdad regime continues to resort to these internationally-banned toxic gases particularly when its suffers bitter defeats in the war fronts.

Captured Iraqi Troops on Offensive

LD270922 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Karbala-IV operational region, Dec 27, IRNA — A number of Iraqi POW's captured in the course of the latest Iranian offensive, in interviews with IRNA here Friday said that the Iraqi Army personnel are demoralised.

First Lieutenant Ahmad Ahmed, commander of Company One of Battalion Three of Brigade 104 of the 15th Army, told IRNA that despite the readiness of troops under his command, his battalion was smashed by Muslim forces of Iran in Umm al-Rasas, in an attack which lasted less than ten minutes. All its personnel were either killed or captured, he added.

Lieutenant Ahmed added that a week before the attack senior Iraqi commanders had put all units under their command on alert. However, the lightning attack of the Iranian forces caught them unaware and prevented them from taking any action.

According to the captured lieutenant the Iranian offensive, launched in the southern war fronts Wednesday night, was a sophisticated military move which took the Iraqis by surprise.

On formation of the 'Mohammad Rasul Allah' (SAW) forces, he said Iraqi military personnel had realised since a year ago that they were unable to stand up to the Iranian forces. Mobilisation of Iranian popular forces, he pointed out, has severely demoralised Iraqi Army personnel and instilled fright in them.

More on the latest Iranian offensive, he said that it has inflicted heavy casualties on Iraqi forces in Umm al-Rasas region. Lieutenant Ahmed urged all Iraqi military personnel to surrender to Iranian forces at the first available opportunity.

Second Lieutenant, Swahendi Ahmad Husayn, of Brigade 104 of Army 15 said that massive public Iranian mobilisation has totally demoralised Iraqi military personnel including high ranking Ba'th commanders. He added, that Iraqi soldiers had been anticipating the Iranian offensive for six months, and that having been on alert for such a long period of time had exhausted them.

Another captive, Lieutenant Mohammad 'Abd Kasar talked about rifts among Iraqi commanders and added that ever since Iran's Al-Faw operations, difference of opinion has prevailed among senior Iraqi military officials who blame each another for defeats suffered by Iraqi forces.

Karbala IV Commander on Operations

LD271417 Tehran IRNA in English 1359 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 27, IRNA — A commander of the Karbala-4 offensive launched in southern fronts Wednesday night in an

interview with the Central News Bureau Friday said that in the operation six Iraqi brigades in Umm al-Rasas, Umm al-Babi, Suhayl, Qit'ah and other areas of the operational region were destroyed. In addition, he added, one tank company was totally smashed and set ablaze. In the offensive some 100 military vehicles were set on fire and more than 9,500 enemy troops were either killed or wounded, the commander added.

On Iraqi propaganda, he said that the Iraqi regime in order to boost morale of its battered forces, had profered every conceivable lie to cover up its defeats. The commander added that the Muslim combatants of Iran are fully capable of carrying out extensive operations and they will be launched when conditions are appropriate. In the meantime, he added, limited surgical strikes against the enemy will continue.

According to the commander the tactics employed by the Muslim forces of Iran are more sophisticated than those used in the past, and that the espionage network of the U.S. and supporters of Iraq are unable to gather intelligence necessary for forestalling such operations.

Offensive Termed 'New Dimension'

LD271436 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1158 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Unattributed political commentary entitled "Reviewing the Traces and Results of the Karbala IV Operations"]

[Text] The Karbala IV operations carried out last Wednesday night to destroy the enemy forces' men and materiel constitute a new dimension to the 76-month-old sacred defense by the Iranian people against the acts of aggression by the Iraqi Zionist regime and its supporters. The manpower losses suffered by the Iraqi Army in the course of these operations constitute the most devastating blow. It is impossible for the Ba'thist commanders to compensate for this blow in view of the political and social circumstances of the Iraqi people, particularly the spirit of despondency and fear ruling over the Iraqi troops.

The killing of more than 3,000 enemy officers, non-commissioned officers, and troops on alert and the knocking of some 6,500 others out of action once again demonstrates the increasing might of the Islamic combatants in inflicting blows on the enemy. This is in addition to the losses of vast quantities of equipment.

The Islamic combatants carried out diversionary operations at the outset of the Val-Fajr 8 operations against the island of Umm al-Rasas. This misled the enemy as to the final objectives of these operations. Moreover, the vast propaganda campaign undertaken by Iraq to portray itself as victorious, prompted the Iraqi Ba'thist Army to build special fortifications and to take measures to safeguard the island. However, the glorious Val-Fajr 8 operations and their remarkable results compounded Iraq's defeat.

The Islamic combatants renewed their efforts to infiltrate this island. The psychological effects of this infiltration on the Iraqi Army, despite all the early warning systems and the numerous sophisticated obstacles employed after Iraq's great defeat at Al-Faw, confirmed the weakness of the equvpment and fortifications against the faith and power of the Islamic combatants. The shining manifestations of this faith and power are engendering fresh hope for the oppressed and deprived Iraqi people, especially Iraqi fighters and dissidents.

The regime ruling over Iraq, which has been rendered severely fatigued and helpless thanks to the great pressure and blows applied by the Islamic combatants on all fronts, has resulted in the Iraqi regime resorting to stratagems, tricks, and blind actions to escape from this state of nervousness and vulnerability. These actions include raiding populated and non-military areas as well as attempts at portraying victory as blatant defeat. The statements made by POW's captured during the Karbala IV operations, whose number has so far risen to about 100, well demonstrate the Iraqi troops' lack of confidence in their propaganda as well as the desperate attempts of the Iraqi regime.

The powerful surprise crossing of the Arvand River, which is impossible except through the selfless deeds and use of special innovative tactics employed by Islam's combatants, has plunged the worn out Iraqi troops into a nightmare of terror and fear. The fear and terror that has engulfed the Iraqi commanders thanks to the intrepid deeds of the Islamic combatants, has drawn in their minds a frightful overall picture of the power of Islam's fighters.

On the opposite side, what goes on in Iran and the visible acceleration among all the people to go to the warfronts has prompted world political and military analysts and experts to believe that the initiative in the war is held by Iran's Islamic forces. Their admission to this crystal clear fact frustrates the attempts by subservient media that try to place limitations on the recent victories of the Islamic combatants. The media have done their utmost to portray the fruitless efforts of the Black House to draw closer to the Islamic Revolution as an arms deal!

During the Karbala IV operations, Islam's combatants also demonstrated that what molds destiny on the fronts is faith in God and steadfasntess along His path. If any other factor could have played a role, Iraq would have achieved victory in the obliteration of the Islamic Revolution on the very first days of its aggression. Also, the vast rearming of the Iraqi regime by both East and West would have been able to now to save that regime from the deadly peril that is already gripping its throat!

Iraqi Supply Columns Halted

LD281731 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov, Dec 28, IRNA — Movement of Iraqi armoured and supply columns were halted and substantial damage inflicted on them by Iranian artillery fire, Saturday. The Iraqi units were advancing on the Karbala-4 operational theater when they were hit in Al-Faw-Al Bahar [name as received] and Faw-Abu al-Khasib-Basra roads.

Meanwhile, some Iraqi forces were killed and three artillery pieces and tanks of theirs destroyed when Muslim combatants shelled their armoured and artillery units in Val Fajr-8 operational region, southern fronts, on the same day.

Communique No 2,695
LD241554 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 24, IRNA — Iranian warplanes in two separate sorties heavily bombed Iraq's economic-military centers in the northern Iraqi city of Diyanah as [words indistinct] enemy troops around the eastern city of Jassan at 04:37 and 12:10 hours GMT Wednesday, said a military communique here.

Communique Number 2695 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that the fighters after inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy returned safely to bases.

Iranian long range artillery fire continued inflicting effective blows on Iraqi military, economic, and supply centers along the whole length of Iraq's eastern borders with Iran Tuesday, the communique said.

It said that exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in Hajj Umran, Naft-e Shah, Sumar, Zeid [spelling as received] and Kushk operational theaters.

Convoys of Iranian patrols reconnoitered Iraqi key positions throughout the fronts Tuesday inflicting heavy blows on enemy troops. The patrols after successfully carrying out their missions returned safely to bases, the communique said.

According to the communique, Iraqi soldiers suffered considerable casualties and losses when Iranian forces shelled enemy supply routes and fortifications in the western and northwestern fronts Tuesday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces suppressed Iraqi military operations in operational theaters ranging from Qasr-e-Shirin and Ilam in the western fronts to Khuzestan border fronts in the south-west, Tuesday inflicting some casualties and losses on enemy troops, the communique said.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iraqi forces sustained some casualties and their tank fire was silenced in Pich-e Angizeh, Bejliyeh, Faqqeh, and Kushk operational regions, southern fronts, by Iranian artillery fire Tuesday.

In Nahr-e Anbar, southern fronts, Iraqi engineering operations were halted and a number of enemy engineering machinery destroyed by Iranian artillery fire Tuesday.

Communique No 2,696
LD251633 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed economic and military installations in the Iraqi cities of Al 'Amadiyah and Tuz Khurmatu (northern Iraq) at 08:10 and 08:30 hours local time (04:40 and 05:00 GMT) Thursday, inflicting heavy damage, according to a military communique issued here Thursday. The Iranian jet fighters returned to their bases safely, it added.

Communique Number 2,696 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iranian Navy gun-boats intercepted 15 tankers and merchant ships in the Strait of Hormuz, but allowed them to proceed, since no Iraqi-bound cargo was found.

In the southern fronts, Muslim combatants of Iran consolidated their positions in continuation of the Wednesday night's Karbala-4 operations. An Iraqi patrol group, attempting to penetrate the Iranian forces' positions in the Channeh region of the southern theatre of Tuesday night, was immediately forced to flee with heavy losses.

Iranian Muslim combatants inflicted considerable damage on Iraqi tanks and silenced their fire in Kushk, Sharhani, Zobeydeh, and Faqqeh regions, said the communique.

In the western fronts, the communique said, some Iraqi forces were killed when the Iranian Muslim forces, maintaining the upper hand, shelled enemy positions in these fronts. Exchange of fire raged on in these fronts being somewhat more intense in Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin.

Iraqi motorized and armoured units were subjected to Iranian heavy artillery fire in the Mehran theatre Wednesday.

In Piranshahr, Sardasht, and Marivan, the Iranian Muslim combatants inflicted heavy casualties and damage on enemy positions and fortifications.

Some Iranian Gendarmerie forces, in the Bakhtaran-Eslamabad axis, were wounded when Iraqi warplanes again resorted to the cowardly use of chemical bombs, Wednesday.

Communique No 2,697
LD261604 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected 16 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying any war-related cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Friday.

Communique Number 2,697 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iraqi forces suffered substantial human and material losses throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian forces Thursday.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and six enemy bunkers and observation posts, several vehicles, and a munitions dump destroyed in parts of the western and southern fronts Thursday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iraqi infantrymen suffered heavy casualties and some enemy vehicles and one watch tower were destroyed by Iranian artillery fire Thursday.

The Joint Staff communique furthermore said that exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Thursday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Naft-e Shah operational

theaters as a result of which a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded.

In the northwestern fronts Iranian Muslim combatants heavily shelled Iraqi infantry units in Kalaleh and Hajj-'Umran Thursday inflicting several casualties and losses on enemy troops. Movement of enemy supply columns were also checked in Piranshah, Sardasht, and Marivan.

According to the communique, Iraqi troops were prevented from fortifying their positions in Chazzabeh, Bejliyeh, Pich-e Angizeh and Sharhani operational regions, southern fronts, by Iranian artillery fire Thursday.

Iraqi long range artillery fire has hit the southern Iranian city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, since Saturday inflicting some losses on the city, the communique said.

Communique No 2,698

LD271614 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 27, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane attempting to raid Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire at 13:24 hours GMT Friday, said a military communique here Saturday.

Communique Number 2,698 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that other Iraqi warplanes which tried to attack the southern Iranian city of Ahvaz six times Friday were forced to flee by Iranian anti-aircraft fire without succeeding in bombing the city.

Iraqi troops fired chemical shells at Iranian positions in the eastern Basra operational theater at 05:24 hours GMT Friday, the communique said.

It said that parts of Iraqi positions were set ablaze and two enemy command jeeps together with some observation posts destroyed in the western fronts by Iranian artillery fire Friday. A number of enemy scouts were also killed.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces in addition to suppressing Iraqi patrol operations reconnoitered and heavily shelled enemy positions Friday.

Iranian forces shelled Iraqi armoured units in Nahr-e Anbar, southern fronts on Friday setting fire to some enemy tanks and disrupting enemy operations, it said.

Elsewhere, the communique said, a number of Iraqi vehicles were destroyed when Iranian forces shelled an enemy motorized column which included 150 vehicles in Yabis operational theater, southern fronts, Friday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the northwestern fronts Friday raging somewhat more heavily in Sayyid Sadiq. In Sar Dasht, Kalaleh, and Hajj 'Umran operational regions, Iraqi infantrymen suffered some casualties and losses and were prevented from fortifying their positions, by Iranian artillery fire.

Convoys of Iranian patrols reconnoitered key Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Friday dealing heavy blows on enemy troops.

Movements of Iraqi motorized columns were checked in the western operational regions of Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin Friday.